

P.H.S.

Transitions



2008



the 1990s, the number of people in the UK who are employed in the public sector has increased by 1.5 million, from 2.5 million in 1980 to 4 million in 1995. The public sector has grown from 10% of the economy to 15% of the economy.

There are a number of reasons for this increase. One of the main reasons is the increasing demand for public services. The population of the UK is increasing, and the demand for public services is increasing. This is reflected in the increasing number of people employed in the public sector.

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Legend 2008 Vol. 67



Portage High School

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(219) 764-8100
Enrollment: 2591

www.portage.k12.in.us



Senior cheerleader Stephanie Bowman pumps up the Homecoming Spirit at the annual pep rally by doing a cheer in the stands as her fellow students look on. *Photo by Katie O'Brien*



A lot can change throughout the years: The building, the students, the rules. One thing, however, stays the same... INDIAN PRIDE!

Whether it's 1980 or 2007, our team colors are showing in what we do *and* what we wear. The students and faculty of Portage High School are great at showing their school pride, no matter what decade.

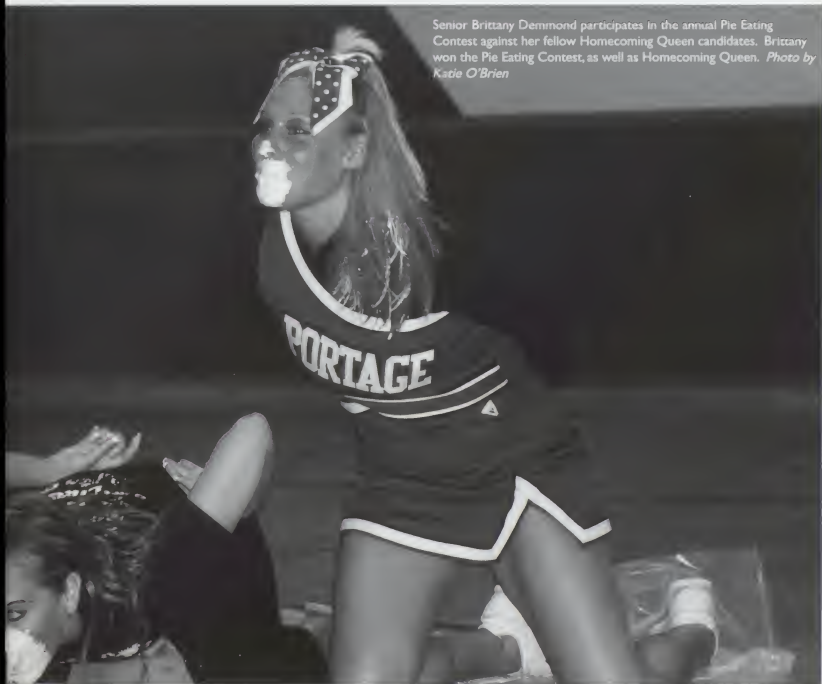


Juniors Elizabeth Broadie and Rachel Fairchild walk to their class, deep in conversation. They are using the recently added hallway in front of the media center. *Photo by Brittany Coates*

Seniors Lindsey Shay and Will Lewis show their dance moves in an effort to get a reaction out of the pep rally crowd. *Photo by Katie O'Brien*



Senior Brittany Demmond participates in the annual Pie Eating Contest against her fellow Homecoming Queen candidates. Brittany won the Pie Eating Contest, as well as Homecoming Queen. *Photo by Katie O'Brien*



Students of the mid-year graduating class converse in the commons on their last day at PHS. They did not have a ceremony in January this year, but were given the option to participate in June. Photo by: Katie O'Brien

Brittany Felker flosses Raychel Sklarz's teeth during their Dental Health Careers vocational class. Students practiced the procedures they learned in class on each other. Photo by: Katie O'Brien



You've got your pencils
sharpened, binders ready and
calculators on. You're ready to
TRANSITION from summer
fun into learning. Your years here
will help prepare you for the real
world, and this starts by making
the most important connections
of your life.



The Portage High School Marching Band shows their spirit and skill in this year's Homecoming Parade, which took place on Central Ave. the Thursday before the game. Class floats, elementary schools and the queen candidates were also featured in the parade.
Photo by: Katie O'Brien

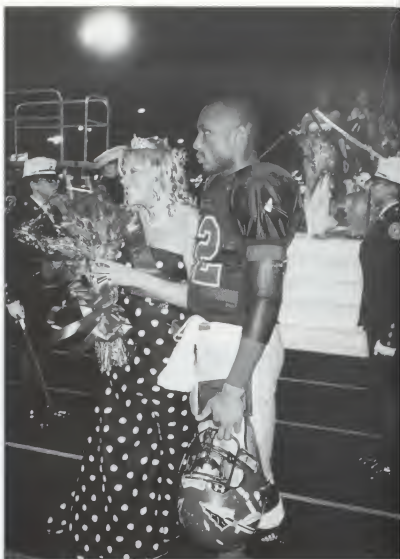


Senior football players Travis Wilson, Cateh Serrano, and Albert Evans show off their moves and spare at this year's Pep Rally. *Photo by: Katie O'Brien*

Junior Kaitlin Winowich and senior Natalie Johnson participate in one of the many Spirit Week days. This one was 70's and 80's day.
Photo by Katie O'Brien



Seniors Brittany Demmond and Albert Evans take their walk together as Homecoming Queen and Mr. Football. This occurred at halftime of the Homecoming football game.
Photo provided by Brittany Demmond



Senior Jessica Carson and sophomore Luke Deckard take part in the parade by dressing up as French maids for the French Club.
Photo by Katie O'Brien

The Portage football team shows some much-deserved love to their fans at this year's parade.
Photo by Katie O'Brien



Homecoming Week full of fun, flotation devices

Homecoming is one time in the school year when the students can go as crazy as they want.

"Homecoming was the bomb!" senior Meghan Doyle said.

There were many ways to express school spirit this year, ranging from participation in one of the days of Spirit Week (Favorite College Shirt Day, 70's and 80's Day, Flotation Device Day, Winter Gear Day, and the infamous

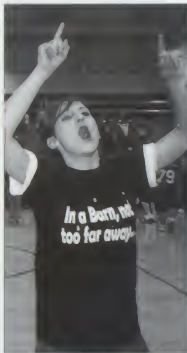
Red and White Day), to attending one of the many activities that took place during the week. These included the parade, the pep rally, the tailgating party, the game, and the dance. The Homecoming Dance was formal this year, a big change from years past, in which students just headed to the gym after the game.

During halftime of the game, Senior Brittany Demmond was crowned Homecoming Queen.

"I was really excited and happy about it because all of my family was there to support me. I was disappointed that we lost the game, but I didn't let it ruin my excitement too much," Demmond said about the honor. Senior Albert Evans won Mr. Football and escorted her off the platform.

The students really showed their school spirit and Portage pride this year, as many students participated in the various activities.

Story by Brittany Gaines



Senior Lindsey Shay pumps up some spirit in the Class of 2008 during the pep rally.

Photo by Katie O'Brien

The ladies of the Class of 2008 show off their best dance moves during the annual Senior Dance. "Homecoming's the bomb! Senior girls '08 were the best yet," Meghan Doyle, senior, said. *Photo by Katie O'Brien*



Senior varsity football players Caleb Serrano and Albert Evans give each other "high" fives during this year's pep rally.

Photo by Katie O'Brien

A member of the cast helps a fellow castmate get ready for a performance of this year's fall play *Our Town*. The town featured in the play, Grover's Corners, symbolizes every person's town. *AJ O'Reilly*

Junior Mike Sikora rehearses a scene from the fall play. Sikora played the role of "Emily's" father, the local doctor. *Photo by AJ O'Reilly*



Members of the cast of *Our Town* perform a scene from this year's fall play. Performances were held in the East Auditorium on two consecutive nights in November. *Photo by AJ O'Reilly*

Juniors Sean Kurbo and Rachel Overall, who played the two main characters George and Emily, said they had a great time working with each other during the play. *Photo by Whitney Foster*





Thespians perform *Our Town* to nearly sold out crowd

This year's thought-provoking fall play was *Our Town*, a performance that is meant to be representative of everyone's own home town.

The hopeful actors and actresses went through auditions, callbacks, and dress rehearsals, and, according to the final cast, it was all worth it.

"Everyone worked so hard, everyone pretty much always showed up, and everybody remembered their lines. The audience was the most we have had in years. We almost ran out of tickets the first night," junior Amalia Shanks-Meile said.

The students worked hard after call backs to perfect their roles as characters such as Emily, George, and Mrs. Gibbs. Part of the challenge of performing in this play is that there is no set and very few props, requiring the actors to visualize objects and their placements. The play teaches its viewers the lesson that life is too short to be wrapped up in material items.

"It's a good play, and it will really teach you about life and how we all take it for granted," junior Nate Livingston, a member of the cast, said.

Lead roles were played by juniors Justin Ruiz (The Narrator), Sean Curbow (George), and Rachel Overvall (Emily).

The dates of the play were November 16 and 17. Students advertised for the play by putting up posters in hopes of having a large amount of attendees. Those posters worked, as the fall play seemed to be quite a success.

The cast was directed by English teacher Patrick Moody with the help of drama teacher William Bodnar and English teacher Carrie Martin-Smith. *Story by Brittany Coates*

Junior Justin Ruiz performs one of his many monologues as the narrator from the fall play *Our Town*. Ruiz was one of the main characters in the play. Photo by AJ O'Reilly



Sophomores Donald Skalka and Kelly Grisch end their night with a smile as they get ready to leave Woodland Park. *Photo provided*



Sophomore Evan Dominguez makes a crazy face for the camera during the Winter Dance. *Photo provided*



Sophomore Kenny Garcia gives a thumbs up to describe his experience at the dance. *Photo provided*

Sophomores Ryan Hodges, Nick Whitney and Donald Skalka get ready to enter the Woodland Park Ballroom before the start of the dance. Photo provided



StuCo changes venue of Winter Dance

This year's winter dance, which was held on December 8, 2007 in the Grand Oak Ball Room at Woodland Park, was full of changes.

The location of the dance this year was moved due to the increase of people wanting to attend. In past years, the dance was in the south commons of the east building. However, the area was not large enough to accommodate the crowd. Woodland Park has a lot more room, which was why Student Council chose that location.

"It was really nice. It was big; there was a lot of room," sophomore Brandon Carter said.

The theme this year was "Winter Wonderland." For decorations, there were fake fir trees covered with ornaments and paper snowflakes hung on the walls. As always, there were tables with cookies, juice and water bottles for the students.

"I loved the chocolate fountain, it was amazing," Carter said. Taylor Billings accompanied him to the dance.

A DJ provided music for the students and even showed off some of his own dance skills during the night.

"It was really fun to a certain extent. Not a lot of people wanted to dance," junior Kaitlin Winowitch said. "I went with Steffane Christian, which was why it was really fun, because she likes to have a good time."

Story by Katie O'Brien



Sophomores Kristie Stanfield and Sarah Smith enjoy a break from dancing at this year's Winter Dance. Photo provided

Junior Chris Burke and senior Jen Hyde strike a pose during the second show, which was scored by a secret panel of judges. Photo by Susanne O'Reilly



Senior Meredith Hodges checks out some of the vendors set up in the commons between the fashion shows. Photo by Melissa Deavers



Senior Kevin Zbikowski and Lindsay Shay walk to the end of the runway. In their cool shades and fashionable outfits. Photo by Susanne O'Reilly

Junior Andrea Falk and senior Courtney Glos have their hair done by stylists from Soto's Hair Salon in Portage. Each girl sported a stylish up-do for the event. Photo by Melissa Deavers



Prom Fashion and Expo Show lets students strut their stuff

Prom was more than just a dance this year; it was a fashion show and expo as well. This year's Junior Class used a Prom Fashion Show as a fundraiser for this year's annual dance.

According to junior class sponsor Mary Lembcke, Louie's Tux Shop approached the group in late September about hosting the show. She and adviser Joe Bachan decided to use this proposal as a fundraiser because previous fundraisers, such as the Student-

Faculty Basketball Game, were not possible.

Models from a range of schools participated, including Valparaiso and Hobart. The Bridal Boutique in Hobart dressed the girls in gowns of their choice, and Louie's Tux Shop in Portage dressed the boys to match their partners' dresses.

In addition, Bachan and Lembcke did a great deal of preparing for the night with help from fellow teachers and parents. The group invited 41 vendors to help raise money and

show juniors and seniors the services available to them to assist in preparing for prom.

"All the sponsors and expo participants were great and I got lots of free stuff," senior Meredith Hodges, who also walked in the fashion show, said.

Lembcke hopes to continue this event in later years.

"It brought the community together and the models seemed to have a great time! I'm glad we took the leap to try something new,"

Lembcke said.

The students are optimistic for next year's show as well.

"I hope that next year is even more successful, and as a senior I highly recommend that all junior and senior girls participate next year," Hodges said.

All of this was made possible by lots of time and hard work by the members, officers and advisers of the junior class. *Story by Katie O'Brien*



Pierre Pirtle and Brittany Bray show off their unique outfits during the fashion show's finale. *Photo by Susanne O'Reilly*

Junior Jesse Magana and a student from Valparaiso High School try to get the crowd pumped up as they make their way down the runway. *Photo by Susanne O'Reilly*



Jen Hyde sits patiently while a professional from Clinique Cosmetics applies her makeup for the fashion show. All of the women had their hair and makeup done by local salons and companies. *Photo by Melissa Deavers*

New robotic vending machines make it even easier to get our favorite modern drinks, such as the Vitamin Water in the vending machines by the cafeteria at school. Photo by: Brittany Coates

New, smaller portable gaming systems have replaced the need for larger consoles, such as Nintendo. Photo by: Brittany Coates



Ten years ago, listening to music was easy if you had the CD you wanted and a stereo to put it in. Now, listening to music is as easy as turning on your MP3 player. Photo by: Brittany Coates

Listening to all your favorite songs is easier, and more compact than ever. Many students chose to purchase the iPod Nano for it's tiny size. Photo by: Brittany Coates



Now and then

Let's reminisce about the good old days:

In the early ninties, children played with the Gameboy. Now, you see PSP's everywhere. To listen to your tunes, you used to turn on a walkman, and now you just take out your iPod. Children and adults alike used to immerse themselves in a game of Duck Hunt for hours, and now they fill the house with music from Rockband or Guitar Hero. Before, children would get up on Saturday mornings to enjoy their favorite cartoons. Now, they can see them everyday, sometimes even twice a day. When you used to trick your friends, you would say something like "psych!" afterwards, or maybe even "not!" However, the current phrase is "J.K." or "LOL." Ten years ago, if we were thirsty, we got a juice box. Now, we get cans of Monster energy drink the size of our heads.

Things have changed and so have we. We are more mature, as are our interests. New movies, songs, and clothing styles show how much we've changed throughout the years.

Story by Brittany Coates



Before the amazing graphics of the new PSP, there was a small, but poorly animated, Nintendo Gameboy. Photo by: Brittany Coates

Seniors Ryan Richmond, Doug Coffman, and Aaron Van Wormer continue the tradition of the "Bitchin' Ballerinas." All male members of the senior class were invited to participate. Photo provided by Natalie Johnson



Seniors Miles Tolliver and Pierre Pirtle show off their moves in the Variety Show this year. They danced to a hip-hop mix. Photo provided by Natalie Johnson



Sophomore Angelo Canter performs a song by playing guitar while singing. Photo provided by Natalie Johnson

Junior Kylie McGuire serenades the audience while playing the keyboard at the Variety Show. Photo provided by: Natalie Johnson



Variety show features old favorites, many new surprises

Tutus, hip hop and Rubik's cubes... oh my!

This year's Variety Show featured all of this and more, as Portage High School students took the stage to showcase their best and most refined talents.

The show featured many unique talents this year, as well as some old favorites.

New to the stage this year was Kevin Zbikowski, who boasted that he could solve a Rubik's cube in under two minutes. Although he did not achieve his goal on stage, he was able to solve it in the practice run that week.

Also new to the stage were sisters Ashley and Valerie Archie and Ayanna Peteet. The trio performed a hip hop dance routine to a mix.

"I was a fun way to exhibit what I love to do to everyone else," junior Valerie Archie said.

Tradition never fails Portage High School, so the senior

boys' ballet routine was a must. The fearless men took the stage in their tutus and danced to a classical piece and "The Thong Song."

"I just wanted a really cute one," senior AJ O'Reilly said of his tutu. "I didn't want to go up there and embarrass myself by wearing an ugly tutu."

O'Reilly was also afraid that the routine was not going to go as planned, but it turned out just how the group wanted.

"We were afraid there was going to be one person who couldn't rip off their shorts, but everyone's pants came off."

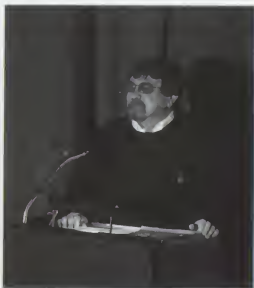
Of course the Variety Show would not be complete without drama teacher Bill Bodnar taking on the role of the emcee during the night.

Call-outs for bands was held in late January, and call-outs for all other talents were held shortly thereafter.

Story by Melissa Deavers



Juniors Ayanna Peteet, Valerie Archie, and senior Ashley Archie prove their dancing skills by performing a routine in the Variety Show. Photo provided by: Natalie Johnson



Drama teacher Bill Bodnar emcees the Variety Show, announcing the upcoming acts. Photo provided by: Natalie Johnson

The OYM winners: Third runner-up Steve Smolinski, second runner-up AJ O'Reilly, winner Doug Coffman, first runner-up Vance Johnston and fourth runner-up Andrew Golden. Photo by Mike Sikora

OYM program director Joe Stevens interviews senior Jeff Hensley in front of the crowd at this year's program. Photo provided by Natalie Johnson



Senior Vance Johnston performs the fitness routine in his favorite pair of boxers. Johnston was the first runner-up in the program. Photo provided by Natalie Johnson

PHS crowns Coffman as this year's Outstanding Young Man

Every February for the past seventeen years, the Portage High School auditorium floods with an audience waiting to see talented, scholarly boys dance in their boxers. The program is entitled Outstanding Young Man (OYM) and it is a well-respected scholarship program.

The scholarship money is donated from businesses around town, in addition to

ticket sales, and is given to the boys who participate, approximately 26 this year. This is one of the smaller programs Portage's OYM has seen within the past, but this year was not a disappointment.

"It's really a fun and surreal experience. It's a respectable program and I'm honored to be judging this year," 2003's OYM winner John Andrews said.

All of the boys had a different reason for participating in the program, but it seems as though the scholarship money is second on their list next to having fun.

When asked why he joined OYM, Kevin Zbikowski said "Why does a man do anything? Money and girls."

After weeks of hard work and dedication, the scholarship program declared its winner,

Doug Coffman.

Perhaps it was his dashing tuxedo style boxers he performed in, or maybe his love of "Mythbusters" that won the judges hearts.

All participants walked away with gifts of many memories that only OYM can bring.

The next step after Coffman's success, he says, "I'm going to Disney World."

Story by Steffane Christian



The crowd laughs after senior Albert Evans responds to an interview question from program director Joe Stevens. Evans was one of three recipients of the "Good Guy Award." Photo provided by Natalie Johnson

OYM winner Doug Coffman takes his spot at the top of the stage among last year's OYM, Sean Toomey, and last year's Junior Miss, Natalie Zulkowski. Photo by Mike Sikora

Senior Amy Delturco sings and dances to the number "We Go Together" at the end of the first act. Delturco played the role of Marty. Photo by Melissa Deavers

Seniors Natalie Johnson and Colleen Moran and sophomore Nessa Junyanid perform a scene as the "Pink Ladies." Photo by Melissa Deavers



Junior Tony Rodriguez performs his solo during this year's production of Grease. Photo by Melissa Deavers

Sophomore Evan Dominguez shows off his dance moves in "Greased Lightning." Photo by Melissa Deavers



Students learn to hand jive in **GREASE**

The Broadway musical *Grease* is always a crowd favorite and usually presents an exceptional turnout, which were some reasons it was chosen for this year's spring musical. A cast including Danny Zuko played by senior Dustin Heath, Sandy Dumbrowski played by freshman Lexi Elisha, Betty Rizzo played by sophomore Nessa Junyanid, Kenickie played by sophomore Evan Dominguez and a multitude of others made this musical an amazing one.

The actual work for this production began in December with a meeting of the choreographers to plan the enactment of musical numbers. The next steps for organizing the musical were the auditions and choosing the cast. The auditioners had to sing, dance, and read for interpretation to find their strongest area. Once they had the final cast, they rehearsed almost every day. Sophomore Evan Dominguez said, "It was so intense and so stressful at times, but it paid off in the end."

Bill Bodnar would also like to add, "No matter where you go, there you are. Ice cream has no bones and the Cubs still suck."

Story by Katie O'Brien



The stars of *Grease*, freshman Lexi Elisha and senior Dustin Heath sing their hearts out during the song "Summer Nights." Photo by Melissa Deavers

Senior Corey Gaines shows off his dancing skills during prom.
Photo by Katie O'Brien



Seniors Allyssa Terkovitz and Katie Mc Cready model their prom dresses. *Photo by Katie O'Brien*



Students take a break from dancing at prom and relax at the tables. *Photo by Katie O'Brien*



Students get hit with mist during prom. Photo by Katie O'Brien



Seniors Grace Coleman and Peter Anderson dance the night away at prom. Photo by Katie O'Brien



Students escape to Paris for Prom

This year, the Valparaiso Expo Center was transformed from a giant barn into "A Night in Paris."

The junior class, led by president Carolyn Tackett, set up icicle lights, miniature Eiffel Towers and other decorations to take everyone at prom from Portage to Paris.

Several changes took place both before and during the event. New this year was a Grand March. Students and their friends and families were invited to the school before prom to be announced, have their pictures taken and watch who received the titles of Prom King, Queen, Prince and Princess. The event was free of charge to those who attended.

Based on a survey taken by seniors at the beginning of the year, dinner was eliminated from prom. According to junior class advisers Mary Lemcke and Joe Bachan, the majority of the seniors who took the survey said they do not eat dinner at prom, but decide to go out to eat before the event.

The junior class booked a new DJ as well, who brought with him two screens with video cameras and music videos, a fog machine and confetti. Story by Melissa Deavers



Seniors Peter Lofland and Syndey Williams express their delight for the entertainment at prom. Photo by Katie O'Brien

Junior Miss participants pause for a prayer before the competition begins.
Photo provided by Susan Kelly-Johnson



Junior Miss Winners Amslie Stankis-Melle, Kaylan Knutsen and Whitney Johnson hold their flowers and smile for a photo. Photo provided by Susan Kelly-Johnson



Hugs and applause are shared among the Junior Miss participants. Photo provided by Susan Kelly-Johnson

The young women in Junior Miss pose on the stage during their performance. Photo provided by Susan Kelly-Johnson



Portage crowns Johnson as this year's Junior Miss

Twenty-eight girls, 13 finalists, but only one Portage Junior Miss.

This year, Whitney Johnson was crowned Portage's 2009 Junior Miss.

"She's an excellent Junior Miss," teacher and advisor to the program Joe Stevens said. The scholarship competition awarded more money this year than has been awarded to the winners in the past. The scholarship has

increased by \$3,000 in three years.

Sixteen out of the twenty-eight girls were awarded scholarships.

Portage's Junior Miss Scholarship Program is the largest out of the 22 programs in the state.

For the past two years, it has been given the title of Indiana Program of the Year.

"It's going to be this good forever," Stevens said.

Johnson's biggest challenge was the speaking aspect because she had never done it before on stage. But the poise portion was "pretty easy" for her because of her extensive ballet experience, she stated.

"We want every girl to be their best self, and to do that you must be yourself. Whitney does that," Stevens said.

Story by Jordan Steiger



Junior Miss participants show off their gowns as they stand for a group photo. Photo provided by Susan Kelly-Johnson

Junior Miss participants perform a dance during the competition. Photo provided by Susan Kelly-Johnson



Junior Miss participants glide across the stage. Photo provided by Susan Kelly-Johnson

Members of the graduating class of 2008 watch as their classmates receive the cases for their diplomas. Seniors receive the actual document immediately following the ceremony. *Photo by Whitney Johnson*

Senior class president Will Lewis delivers his speech before the crowd during the graduation ceremonies. *Photo by Whitney Johnson*




Portage High School principal Caren Swickard gives a hug and congratulates every student in the class. *Photo by Whitney Johnson*



Senior Natalie Johnson cannot contain her excitement as commencement ceremonies begin. *Photo by Whitney Johnson*





The Class of 2008

Check out these little known facts about the Class of 2008:

*This class was the last class to experience the outdoor walkway, the walkway under construction and the finished center building.

*The average price of gasoline this year was \$3.62 a gallon.

*The Senior Girls' shirts had a grammatical error! The shirts read '08' instead of '08.

*After years of classes receiving their Senior Week, the class of 2008 was the first at PHS to have theirs taken away by the Indiana Department of Education.

*The class of 2008 was so smart, they needed two Valedictorians!

*This class not only experienced the MRSA scare of 2007, but survived it!

*The phrase "If you come to school with a positive attitude, you will have a positive day" was heard by the senior class for two years.

*The class of 2008 was in sixth grade during the 9/11 attacks on the World Trade Center.

Facts compiled by AJ O'Reilly



Homecoming nominees Brittany Demmond, Amanda Gloss, and Erin Kleist stand on the podium and await the announcement of the winner. Demmond was crowned this year's Homecoming Queen. *Photo by Brittany Johnson*



Senior Jessie Carson and sophomore Luke Deckard support the French Club in this year's homecoming parade. *Photo by: Katie O'Brien*



The Senior Girl's Dance was performed at the pep rally for homecoming. Their practice really paid off, judging by the crowd's reaction. *Photo by Katie O'Brien*



A group of PHS students show their team pride by "superfanning" at one of the home football games this year. *Photo by Brittany Coates*

"My friends have helped me through school so much because they're my support and they make it better.

We are going to college after next year, but we'll still continue to be friends because we

get along so great and help each other out."

Taylor Haraminac, 11

look how we've

CHANGED

Senior Jen Hyde organizes benefit

For their senior year, students may choose to come to school, pass their classes, and go home. However, that's not the case for senior Jen Hyde. Her senior year is filled with hard work and after school activities. Not only does she maintain good grades, but she also is involved in extra curricular activities such as Honor Society and Thespians. After participating in these activities, she goes to Toni's Dance Academy.

"After school, I go home and sleep for a couple hours, then I go to dance for four hours, then I begin homework at 11 each night," Hyde says about her daily routine.

She also helped put together the Dancers Against Cancer benefit that was held here at

Senior Jen Hyde has been involved in so many extracurricular activities, including Dancers Against Cancer, yet still has the time to keep up with her school work.
Photo by Mike Sikora

PHS.

"The show itself and all of the workers were amazing! I couldn't have asked for better. It was a lot of work, but it was 100% worth it," Hyde said.

Seniors Selessina Rodriguez and Carol Belleville show off their homecoming spirit during 70's/80's day for Spirit Week. Photo by: Katie O'Brien



Leah Adams
Rita Ahlborn
Kimberly Aimore
Dillon Albee
Christopher Amore



Darrell Anderson
Football 9; Basketball 9, 10,
11, 12; Baseball 9, 10, 11, 12



Ashley Archie
Jennifer Arend
Rhonda Ashford
Daniel Avina

Patricia Bailey
Shauna Ball
Chareis Barajas
Desire Barnes
Brittney Barnett





Sophomore Seiche Dogan shows off the love she has for the senior class at a swim meet by wearing a homemade t-shirt. Photo by Kate O'Brien



Ivan Bateman
Amanda Bates
Bracy Bean
Mara Bearss
Gabrielle Becerra

Loudan Becker
Baseball 9; Hockey 9, 10, 11, 12
Jessica Bedford
Carol Belleville
Poms 9, 10; Airband 12;
Variety Show 12
Jasmine Belmont
Iris Beltran

Robert Bennett
Carrie Biggs
Brittany Black
Jeremy Blake
Amy Blakely

Amber Bolin
Writer's Block 9, 10, 11, 12;
Orchestra 9;
Anime Club 9, 10, 11, 12; Art
Club 10;
Natural Helpers 11
Richelle Bolinger
Erica Bonilla
Stephanie Bowman
Devin Boylan

Megan Braden
Tae Braner
Deanna Brantley
Brittany Bray
Emily Brennan



Alfredo Brignoni
Elizabeth Brown
Michael Brutout
Calvin Bryant
Borivoj Bulic



Lindsay Burbee
Tonya Butala
Stacy Butler
Brittany Buzza
Kaitlyn Cabanas



Brandi Cain
Brittani Cain
Jennifer Campbell
Vincent Canales
DJ Capron



Nicholas Cardenas
Graham Cardwell
Andreanna Carnell
Jessica Carson
Daniel Castaneda, Jr.



Kyle Catlin
Erika Cervantes
Nolen Chavez
Victoria Chavez
Jessalyn Child
ROTC 9, 10, 11, 12; Student
Council 12; Art Club 10; Drill
Team 11, 12





Steffane Christian
 Band 9; Spring Musical 9, 10, 11, 12;
 Thespians 9, 10, 11, 12; Poms 9, 10,
 11; NHS 12; Pow Wow 12; Jr. Miss
 11; Prom Royalty 11
Stephen Clark
Kristin Clem
Logan Cloyd
Anthony Cocco

Douglas Coffman
Darren Conley
 Track 9, 10, 11, 12; Variety Show
 9, 10, 12
Brianna Coppinger
Jessica Cox
 Reading Club (president) 12
Rachel Crase

Chad Crile
 Baseball 9, 10, 11, 12
Kathryn Crook
Kyle Crout
Nick Crowder
Beth Croy

Jacob Crozier
Kathleen Curiel
Noelle Curran
Morghann Currin
Antoine Curry

Tiffany Davies
Kassandra Davis
Angela Dees
Anna DeFlorio
Kristina Deleon

Daniel Delgado II
Amy Delturco
Brittany Demmond
Eddie Derr
Christopher Devenport

TJ Diamond
Joseph DiCicco
Melanie Doble
Nicholas Dove
Meghan Doyle



Logan Drees
Danielle Droski
Kayla Drozd
Robert Drury
Jeffrey Dubach



Anthony Duron
Jennifer Dusard
10, 11 Choraliers; 10 Girl's
Glee; 11, 12 Advanced Mixed
Choir; 11, 12 HOSA; Spring
Musical 12
Jessica Echterling
Joseph Efantis
Michael Encinas



Adair Engel
Jakob Engel
Madison Engel
Megan Erway
Cheerleading 9, 10;
Powderpuff 12
Andrew Escabi



Albert Evans
Kenneth Evans
Stephanie Evans
Stephanie Farmer
Samuel Fazekas



Elizabeth Feliciano
Brittany Felker
Taylor Flemming
Bruce Fink, Jr.
Shaun Finley





John Fischer
Jennifer Fletcher
Jeremy Flick
Joshua Flick
Michelle Floyd

Jason Follow
 Soccer 9; JROTC 9, 10, 11, 12;
 JROTC Drill 10, 11, 12
Whitney Foster
 Spring Musical 10, 11, 12; Student
 Council 10, 11, 12; Senior Class
 (VP) 12; Fall Play 12; NHS 11, 12;
 Junior Class 11; Campus Life 10,
 11, 12; Choir 10, 11, 12; Thespian's
 10, 11, 12; Jr. Miss 11
Rachell Franklin
Tina Franklin
Dustin Franz
Amanda Frasure
Leslie Fuller
 Inter. Orchestra 9; Inter. Band
 9; Advanced Orchestra 10, 11;
 Advanced Band 10, 12; Advanced
 Choir 11, 12; Student Council 9,
 10, 11; Spring Musical 10, 11, 12;
 Junior Miss 11; Junior Class 11;
 Senior Class 12
Spencer Fultz
Corey Gaines
TreVonte Gantt
Nathan Garcia
Lionel Garibaldi
Zachary Garner
Breanna Garza
Melissa Garza
 Volleyball 9; Adv. Choir 9, 10, 11, 12

Stephanie Gerbick
 Marching Band 9, 10, 11, 12; Pep
 Band 9, 10, 11, 12; Academic Su-
 perbowl 9, 10, 11, 12; Knowledge
 Master 9, 10; Concert Band 9, 10,
 11, 12; Jazz Band 11; NHS 11, 12;
Jonathan Geske
Amanda Gettig
 Choir 9; Girls Glee 10, 11
Elizabeth Girouard
 Swimming 9, 10; Choir 9, 10, 11, 12
Amanda Glos
Courtney Glos
 Softball 9, 10, 11, 12; Science
 Olympiad (President) 11, 12; NHS
 (President) 11, 12; Cross Country
 10; Latin Club 9, 10, 11, 12
Benjamin Gobin
 JROTC 9, 10, 11, 12
Matthew Golarz
Andrew Golden
 Swimming 9, 10, 11, 12; Student
 Council 9, 10, 11, 12; NHS 11, 12;
 Academic Team 9, 10, 11, 12; Con-
 cert Band 9, 10; Marching Band 10;
 Fall Play 10; OYM 12
Matthew Gonzalez

Samuel Gonzalez**Taylor Graziel**

Student Council 9, 10, 11, 12;
Class Clubs 9, 10, 11, 12; NHS
11, 12; Thespians 9; Fall Play 10;
Natural Helpers 11, 12

Zachar Griffin**Matthew Gugliemetti**

Football 9, 10, 11, 12

Melissa Hale

Choraliers 9, 10, 11, 12; Choir 9,
10, 11, 12; Musical 10, 11, 12; Jr.
Miss 11; Variety Show 12

Natasha Hale

Taylor Halko
Cross Country 9, 10, 11, 12; Track
and Field 9, 10, 11, 12; National
Honor Society 11, 12

Ashlee Hall

Swimming 10

Zachary Hall

Bowling 10, 11, 12; BPA 9

Mariah Hamang

Choir 9; Writer's Block 9, 10;
Hoosier Girl's State 11; BPA 12

Sarah Hamang**Joseph Hammond****Russell Harrington****Jessica Harris****Kaylyn Hart**

Freshman Class Club (VP);

Sophomore Class Club; Junior

Class Club; Senior Class Club;

Student Council 9, 10, 11, 12;

Gay-Straight Alliance 10, 11;

Anime Club 11

Anthony Hatfield**Brian Hatten****Jessica Hayward****Michael Hazy****Dustin Heath****Rachel Heckman****Lindsay Hejna****Joseph Henry****Jeffery Hensley****Christine Hernandez**

Cross Country 9, 10; Track and
Field 9; Band 9, 10; Golf 10; Art
Club 11, 12; HOSA (President)
11, 12

Gloria Hernandez**Amber Herrera****Jillian Herrman****Maria Hicks****John Hill**



Jessika Hoadrea
Lauren Hodges
Lauren Hopper
Treona Hunter
Alexander Hutchins

Benjamin Hutchins

Jennifer Hyde
Spring Musical 9, 10, 11, 12; Honor
Society (Treasurer) 11, 12; Student
Council 9, 10, 11; Junior Miss 11;
Dancer Against Cancer (Host) 12;
Golf 9
Nikola Ivanovic
Franklin Ivey
Leah Johnson

Stephanie Jahoda

Ashleigh Janiga
Soccer 9, 10, 11; Baseball 9;
Softball 9, 10, 11, 12; Junior Miss 11;
NHS 11, 12; Concert Band 9, 10,
11, 12; Jazz Ensemble 11, 12;
Marching Band 9, 10; Pep Band 10,
11, 12; FLHS 11, 12; Peer Tutoring
11, 12
Melinda Jarnecke
Marko Jasnic
Barbie Jenks

Brittany Johnson

Kyle Johnson
Natalie Johnson
Vance Johnston III
Mathew Joiner

David Jolly

Kyle Jones
Tate Judy
Jennifer Kalch
Trevor Karagias

Kaitlin Karagory

Jaimie Kasper
Kevin Katona, Jr.
Matthew Kawiecki
Courtney Kearby

Ashley Keen
Brett Kenworthy
Brandon Kestle
Mashael Khalil
Katina Kidd



Ashley King
Erin Kleist
Craig Knickerbocker
Kiyoshi Kobayashi
Lauren Komenda



Clint Konchar
Sarah Konopasek
Jayne Korpak
Kara Kostelnik
James Kovacs



Allen Kozik
Aaron Krabbenhoft
Melissa Kranick
Nicole Krooswyk
Kevin Krueger



Jeffrey Krug
Randi Kyle
Brian Laster
Katie Leach
Daniel Lenzo



Carmyn Leveritt
Brett Lewis
Will Lewis IV
Abigail Llerena
Peter Lofland





Brittany Lozanovski
Kyle Ludford
Hugo Luna
Thomas Lynch
Ashley Madsen

Kamran Malik
Randall Mantz
Samantha Maples
Stevan Marjanov
Joshua Martin

Stacey Martinez
Ashleigh Mathis
Thomas Mathis
Alyssa Mayerik
Kathryn McCready

Bryan McCumber
Steven McLeod
Chameron McMillon
Samanatha McWhirter
Amanda Mecysine

Raymond Meehan
Valerie Mihal
Freshman Basketball 9; Cross
Country 10, 11, 12; Track & Field
10, 11, 12; HOSA 11
Diamond Miller
Medical Terminology Vocational
11; Dental Health Vocational 12
Mary Miller
Angela Mills
Soccer 9, 10, 11; Tennis 10, 11;
PowWow 10, 11; Jr. Miss 11; Fall
Play 12; Natural Helpers 11, 12
Amanda Mirabella
French Club 9; Powder Puff 11, 12
Melinda Misch
Cross Country 9, 10, 11, 12; Track
9, 10, 11, 12; NHS 11, 12; Junior
Miss 11; Concert Band 9, 10, 11,
12; Pep Band 9, 10, 11
Samantha Mischanko
Alex Mitchell
Jazmyne Mitchell

Colleen Moran

Volleyball 9; Golf 10; Student
Council 9; Tennis 11; Junior Miss
11; Fall Play 12; Art Club 12;
Natural Helpers 11, 12

Emily Morris

Ryan Morris

Christopher Moss

Amy Muhammad

Student Council 10, 11, 12; NHS

11, 12; Pow Wow 12; Junior Class

11; Senior Class (Treasurer);

Cadet Teaching 12;

Maria Murillo

Michael Murray II

Aaron Napier

Korissa Neace

Krista Nebel



Katie Nestorovich

Jessica Nguyen

Tiffany Nichols

Joshua Novak

Kari Nugent

Katherine O'Brien

Swimming 9, 10, 11; Tennis 9; Golf

11; Legend 11, 12; HOSA Historian

11; HOSA 12; Spring Musical 12

AJ O'Reilly

Lisette Olmo

Robbie Onofrey

Alexander Oprisko

Maxima Ornelas

Sara Ortiz

Lindsay Owens

Jacquelyn Pagan

Nathaniel Pall

Cross Country 9, 10, 11, 12;

Track 9, 10; NHS 11, 12; OYM 12;

Captain's Council 12

Francisco Pantoja

Philip Paulson

William Pearman

Matthew Peksenak

Arielle Pennington



Holly Percifield
Zachary Perry
CJ Peters
Alexis Petrak
Andrew Piasecki

Pierre Pirtle
Andrew Plebanski
Jaqi Ponce de Leon
Christina Posey
Carly Posiadlik

Lauren Powers
Brandon Powrozek
Joshua Pradiad
Shane Prance
Baseball 9, 10, 11, 12; Captain's
Council 12; Football 9
Andrew Price

Rachael Price
Alex Proper
Amanda Pruim
Danielle Prusynski
Pow Wow 11, 12; Volleyball
Manager 9, 10
Nicholas Quick
Golf 9, 10, 11, 12; Student-Faculty
Basketball Game 11

Elizabeth Ramirez
Desiree Ramos
Natural Helpers 12
Jacqueline Randolph
Megan Rawdon
Kyle Redlark

Vanessa Reyes
Jakob Ribar
Cody Richard
Nicholas Rigoni
Raymond Rivera

Kurtis Robinson
Cassandra Rocha
Cecilia Rodriguez
Gerardo Rodriguez, Jr.
Selestina Rodriguez
Poms 9, 10; Variety Show 9; Air
Band 9; Choir 9; Senior Girls
Dance 12; HOSA 12; Dental
Academy 12



Shawn Rogers
Luana Rojano
Claudia Rojas
Kevin Rosenski
Sarah Rosser



Kyle Rossman
Jamie Rotarius
Afton Ryals
Arthur Safstrom
Ashley Sakes



Samantha Salmi
Lisa Samplawski
Jacob Sandage
Ashley Sanders
Swimming 9, 10, 11, 12
Timothy Sandrey



Joselyn Santos
Soccer 9, 10; Marching Band 9, 10,
11, 12; NHS 11, 12; FLHS 11, 12;
Jazz Band 12; Musical 11; Choir 9,
10; Pep Band 9, 10, 11; Campus Life
9, 10, 11, 12
Joshua Santos
Amanda Satanek
Inter. Choir 9; Girls Glee 10
Natasha Saylor
Eric Schuler



Dominique Scott
Lauren Scott
Golf 10, 11, 12; Film Club 11;
Saga 12
Jessica Sedoris
Softball 9, 10, 11, 12; Captain's
Council 12
Caleb Serrano
Football 12; Track and Field 12
Tasha Sever
Soccer 9, 10, 11, 12; Tennis 9, 10,
11, 12; NHS 11, 12;
Captain's Council 12





Lindsay Shay
Tina Sibakoska
Maerose Siroky
Joseph Sischo
Rachel Sklarz



Nikolas Skubish
Tas Qum Do 10, 11; Science
Olympiad 12; Reading Club 12;
Writer's Block 12
Brent Slawnikowski
Brittany Smith
James Smith
Stephen Smolinski, Jr.



Stephanie Snow
Hannah Snyder
Sara Sowers
Ryan Specht
Ryan Spencer



Timothy Standerski
Anna Stanley
Stacey Stilley
Tara Stockstill
Zachary Stoehr



Michele Stowers
Saga 11; Pow Wow 12; Powderpuff
12; NHS 12; Footbal manager 12
Amanda Salski
Inter: Choir 9; Volleyball 9; Spring
Musical 10; Advanced Choir 10,
11, 12; NHS 11, 12; Junior Class
11; Senior Class 12; Student
Council 12
Craig Summers
Ronald Sutton
Richard Swain



Nicole Sykora
Michael Szymanski
Michael Tanses
Nathaniel Taylor
Allyssa Terkovitz

Kayla Thomas

Katie Thomason

Spring Musical 9, 10, 11, 12; Girl's Glee
9; Student Council 9, 10; Junior Miss 11;
Fall Play 11, 12; FLHS 11, 12; NHS 11,
12; Natural Helpers 11, 12; Thespians

11, 12; Art Club 12

Brian Thornton

Melody Tilford

Tennis 10, 11, 12

Emily Tolliver

Golf 9, 10; Marching Band 9, 10, 11, 12;
Pep Band 9, 10, 11, 12; NHS 11, 12

Myles Tolliver

Thomas Torres, Jr.

Meredith Trobaugh

Corey Tulacz

Jessica Tuomi

Bruce Turner

Katlyn Udchitz

Jody Uran

Aaron Van Wormer

Ryan Vance

Nicholas Vander Wal

Nicholas Vanni

Jaime Vasquez

Julian Vazquez

Football 9; Tennis 12

Abimelec Velez

Tsehai Viaud

Krystal Vivian

Writer's Block 9; Swimming 10, 11,

12; Pow Wow 11; Saga 12; FLHS

11, 12; Spring Musical 12; Choir 9;

Cadet Teaching 12; Natural

Helpers 12

Kevin Waite

Randy Walker

Markesha Walter

Lindsay Walters

Pep Band 9, 10; Marching Band
9, 10

Matthew Walters

Cross Country 9, 10, 11, 12;

Basketball 9, 10; Baseball 9, 10;

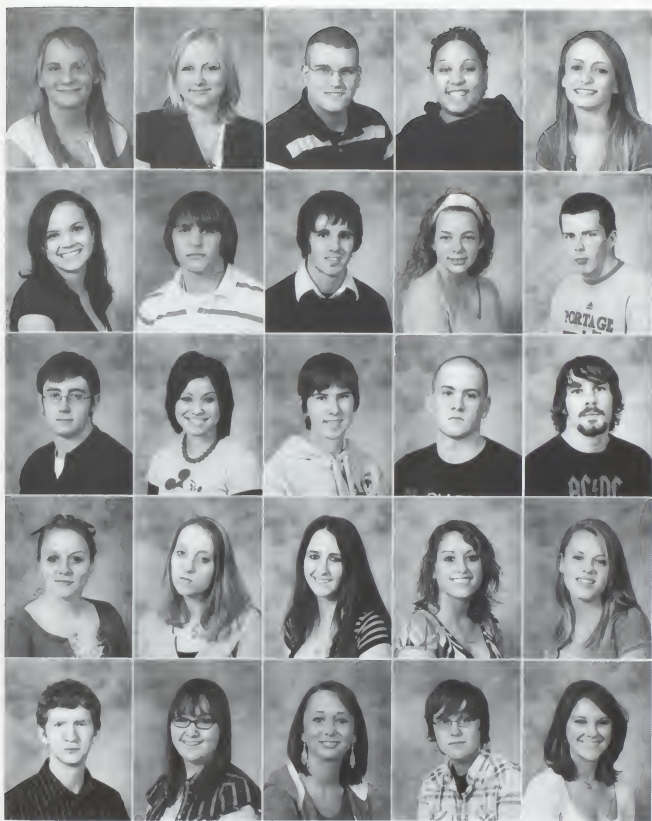
Track 11, 12

Christopher Weathers

Joshua Weldon

Ashton Whitley





Cynthia Wilhelm
Maria Wilhelm
Christopher Wilkening
Vera Wilkins
Felicia Williamson

Sydney Williams
French Club 9, 10, 11, 12; Junior
Class 11; Student Council 11, 12;
Spring Musical 12
Justin Willis
Wrestling Team 12; OYM 12
Brandon Wilson
Mary Wilson
Bowling Team 12; Peer Tutor 9, 10;
Early Childhood Education at Self
11, 12; Spring Musical 12
Travis Wilson

James Wilt
Wendy Windsor
Corey Winowitch
Zachary Wood
Benjamin Wright

Fawn Wright
Amanda Yakel
Jessica Yauch
Rachel Ybarra
Jennifer York

Kevin Zbikowski
Alisha Zick
Gabrielle Ziller
Christopher Zilz
Natalie Ziulkowski

Tackett stays as involved as possible

Junior class president Carolyn Tackett has been hard at work all year with Student Council, her studies, and other extra-curricular activities. She has been or is involved in Choraliers, Jazz Band, theater, National Honor Society, Student Council, golf, Praise and Worship Team, teaching Sunday School, and Portage Junior Miss Softball. For her, academics come first and her grades are most important. She says that since student council is a group effort, no body commits to more than they can handle. "I love the spirit of good natured people helping others that surrounds everything Student Council does. To me, being the junior class president

is a privilege and an honor because it allows me the opportunity to work with a group of incredible people," said Tackett. She says the hardest part of being president, though it is worth it, is the communication. "Keeping everyone- students, advisors, and parents- informed and on the same page is fundamentally one of the biggest challenges we face everyday," she said. Even though she has many responsibilities, she handles them well and maintains her grades. *Story by Brittany Coates*

Junior Carolyn Tackett listens to music teacher Bob Symer as he gives her ninth mod jazz Ensemble class directions. *Photo by Melissa Deavers*



Douglas Adduci
Jasmine Aguilar
Andrew Alvalles
Jessica Alvarez
Wendy Alvarez
Darryl Andersen
Jessica Anderson

Jessica Anderson
Loretta Anekwe
Danielle Aragon
Valerie Archie
Erica Armstrong
Brittnee Arndt
Dwayne Arnold

Joseph Arroyo
Leslie Bailey
Daniel Bain
Kayla Ball
Lauren Barner
Jeffrey Barnes
Lindsey Bartholomew

Nicholas Bartuch
Megan Beach
Timothy Beal
Jeremy Beasley
Michael Beckham
David Berridge
Nikki Bewley





This year's junior class walks with their float during the Homecoming Parade.
Photo by Katie O'Brien



Holly Bilderback
Corey Bingham
Jenna Black
Devon Blackwood
Mario Blakney
Amber Blejski
Jessica Bowles

Johnathan Boyer
Elizabeth Breakfield
Amelia Briones
Elizabeth Broadie
Korey Brooks
Phillip Brosseau
Anthony Brown

Sarah Brown
Jessica Bruno
Stephen Bryan
Jonathan Buchanan
Jason Buchwalter
Clinton Buckland
Jonathan Bumbales

Andrew Burge
Christopher Burke
Darlene Burton
Addisen Cameron
Corrie Campfield
Karen Campos
Nicholas Caniglia

Jessica Cardenas
Victoria Carey
Lisa Carroll
Jamie Carter
Raymond Casillas
Adam Castaneda
David Castaneda

Rosalinda Castaneda
Walter Castrejon
Rikki Cavanaugh
Ming Chan
Brookeann Chandler
Sergio Chavez
Ryan Cherry



Tyler Choucalas
Aaron Ciesielski
Trevor Clendaniel
Marlisa Clough
Brittany Coates
Megan Coffey
Nathaniel Coleman



Amanda Collazo
Mauriza Colunga
Brandon Comerford
Jessica Conn
Leslie Cook
Stephanie Cooper
Tanya Corona



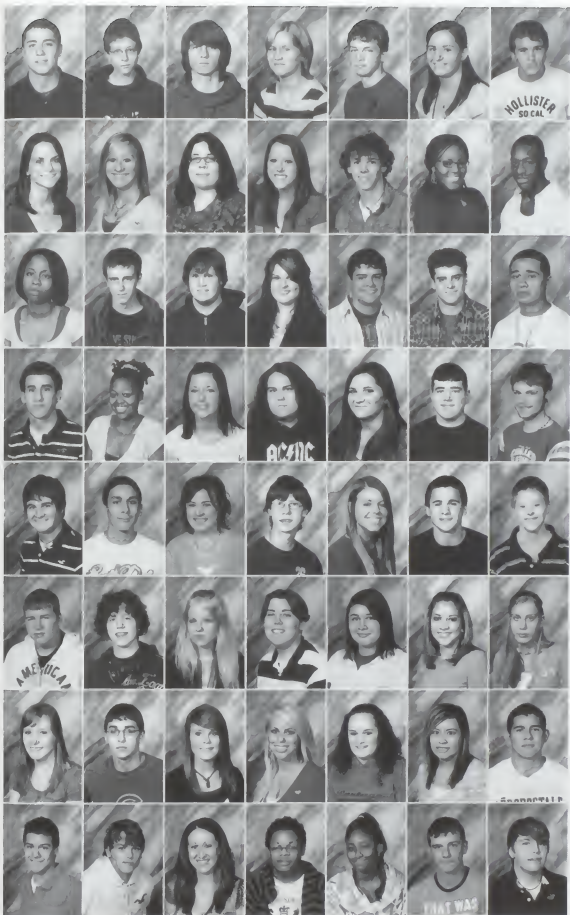
Roberto Costa
Charles Cousins
Amber Cox
Shawn Crane
Mariah Crawford
Dustin Crayne
Kayla Criswell



Junior Valerie Lafata shows her school spirit at this year's homecoming parade. She walked in it with the student council. Photo by: Katie O'Brien



Junior Nathan Samano supports the football team this year at one of the games he missed because of an injury. Photo by: Katie O'Brien



Michael Criswell
Christopher Croft
Glen Croy
Allison Cruse
Grant Cummings
Melanie Cunningham
Sean Curbow

Shannon Curry
Brittania Dahlgren
Mary Daniel
Jennifer Darnell
Jared Davies
Ariangela Davis
Charles Davis

Chrystal Davis
John Davis
Austin Dean
Salena Dean
Tyler Dean
Zachary Dean
Arturo Del Real

Mark Deleon
Jasmine Dennie
Tiffany Dessauer
Kyle Dewese
Elena Dimitriovska
Dakota Dixon
Joshua Djurich

Matthew Dogan
Derek Dougherty
Aleda Douglas
Steven Downing
Jessica Dranchak
Nicholas Dvorscak
Sean Egolf

Stephen Elliott
Kevin Engel
Amber Engstrom
Alan Eryman
Daphne Espinosa
Stephanie Espinosa
Sarah Evans

Amanda Evett
Christopher Fadely
Rachel Fairchild
Andrea Falk
Casey Ferguson
Brittney Figueroa
Adrian Flores

Nathan Fortenberry
Caleb France
Salena Freeman
Sterling Freeman
Jaquel Freeny
Jason Frigo
Derek Frizzell

Bryce Fromme
Kevin Funke
Danielle Gaines
Aaron Galaviz
Alyssa Gamez
Leandre Gantt
Angel Garcia



Anthony Geiselman
Anthony Geiselman
Joshua Gensel
Kirsten Gerber
James Geros
Justin Glass
Virgil Goin



Raemarie Gomez
Joshua Gonzales
Michelle Gonzales
Sarah Gonzalez
Gail Goodan
Tyler Gorden
Desiree Gordon



Michelle Gottschlich
Morgyn Graber
Cesar Granillo
Dean Grasham
Jeffrey Gratt
Diandre Green
Megan Gregory



Brandon Gross
Jamie Grutsch
Eryn Hale
Matthew Halfman
Shane Hall
Ashlie Handley
Courtney Handley



Taylor Haraminac
Matthew Harmon
Brittany Harriman
Rachel Harris
Sydni Harris
Nicole Harrie
Jacob Hart

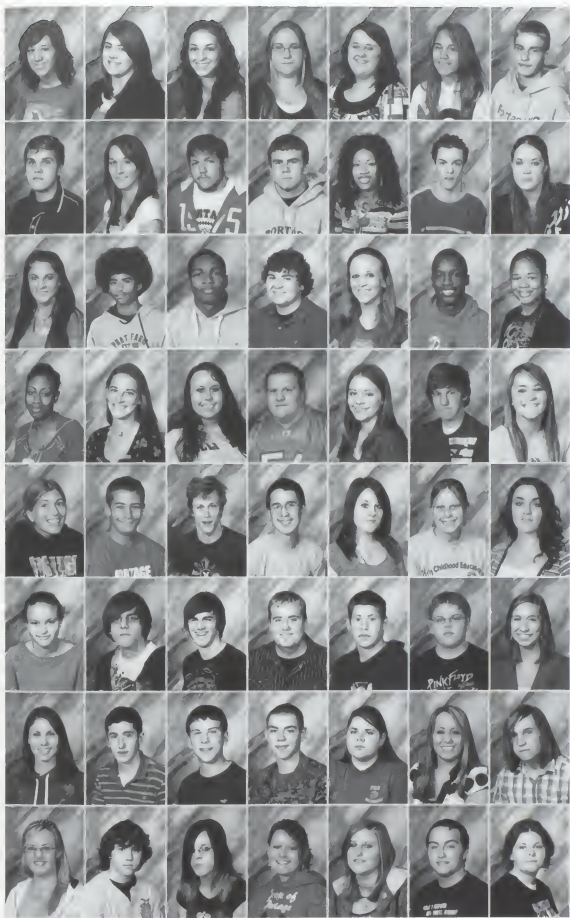


Joshua Hart
Jenna Harvey
Katherine Hawkins
Sara Hayden
Ryan Heck
Tricia Hein
Kristen Helmick



Thomas Hennrich
James Henson
Nadine Hernandez
Justine Herrera
Christopher Hess
Joseph Higgins
Richard Hill





Taylor Hill
Paige Hoggard
Hailey Holland
Kelsey Horton
Natalie House
Nicole Hudson
Michael Hughes

Andrew Hulse
Megan Hulse
Nathan Hurley
Sean Hutchinson
Alexis Jackson
Justin Jacobs
Devon Jager

Brooke Janik
Phillip Jeffrey
Donte Jemison
Kevin Jennings
Rachel Jett
Arvis Johnson
Chyna Johnson

Jasmine Johnson
Whitney Johnson
Samantha Jones
Scott Jones
Megan Juchinsky
Derek Kalicky
Tiffany Keil

Crystal Keilman
Kyle Keith
Francis Killmer
Brian Kim
Alexandria Kimmel
Brandi King
Kayla King

Josilyn Kinsler
Christopher Kirk
Caleb Kitchen
Joshua Kitchen
Jonathan Kleist
James Klimczyk
Kaylan Knutsen

Alexandra Kolbus
Steve Kovachevich
Stephen Koveck
Kyle Kranick
Kristina Kress
Valerie Lafata
Justin Langman

Brittany Langston
Jacob Larson
Misty Lay
Nicole Layba
Morgan Leucuta
Aaron Lewis
Raychel Lewis

Robert Lewis
Claire Lichnerowicz
Colton Littrell
Nathan Livingston
Alexander Lomeli
Drake Loney
Alexander Long



James Lopez
Nathaniel Lowery
Scott Lundy
Kelley MacKoyak
Jacob Maddack
Ambrosia Maddox
Jesse Magana



Christopher Magura
Ashley Majewski
Breanna Manning
Shandon Maracle
Miriah Mark
Jonathan Martinez
Rolando Martinez



Brandon Massom
Charles Matheny
Sarah Mathewson
Brittany Mathis
Ann-Marie McGee
Eric McGovern
Kylie McGuire



Junior Andrea Falk takes a break after decorating the "junior hallway" for homecoming this year. Photo by: Mike Nelson



Junior Sarah Brown cheers on the football team at this year's homecoming game. Photo by: Mike Nelson



Jordan McHargue
Caleb McKee
William McNorton
Joshua Meanovich
Bryse Meijer
Dustin Meineche
William Melic

Jeffrey Melton
Magdalene Melton
Christopher Mendoza
Michael Mercado
Zachary Messina
Amanda Miller
Austin Miller

Cynthia Miller
James Miller
Jessica Miller
Lauren Mills
Shelby Milner
Max Mischke
Brett Misner

Shane Mitckess
Ashley Morris
Charles Murch
Shawn Murphy
Clark Mussman
Nadia Nabhan
Ethan Nadolski

Ozge Nemutlu
Matthew Neubert
Jonathon Neyhart
Tommy Nguyen
Damien Nunez
Jose Nunez
Anthony Nuzzo

Keith O'Quinn
Brianna Oakes-Cordon
Stephanie Oetman
Jason Ogle
Bethanie Olsen
Thomas Olson
Christopher Ondo

Austin Orlich
Alfonso Ortega
Belinda Ortiz
Justin Ortiz
Elizabeth Oswald
Rachel Overvold
Alyssa Pacheco

Amanda Pacheco
Joseph Paczolt
Joseph Pagan
Hannah Pajor
Tiffany Palagyi
Veronica Paredes
Ann Parobek

Fayeza Pathan
Matthew Pedroza
Martin Pelayo
Jessenia Perez
Lisa Perez
Megan Perez
Miranda Perez



John Perry
Ayanna Pettee
Donald Petroski
Cory Pfeiffer
Vincent Phillips
Mark Pickering
Ryan Pidgeon



Laura Pieczynski
Jami Piers
Aaron Poe
Kyle Poracky
Matthew Porter
Derek Poznanski
Stephanos Prassas



Desirea Pride
Charles Prigge
Katherine Prohl
Matthew Propeck
Zachary Przybysz
Stephanie Puchalski
Codey Pulido



Tonya Purcell
Carson Rains
Ashley Randle El
Angela Ratigan
Joshua Rayner
Dominic Reboy
Patrick Reece



Kyle Reyna
Thomas Richards
Darcy Richardson
Tyler Richter
William D. Rigdon
Ryan Ring
Corey Rivera

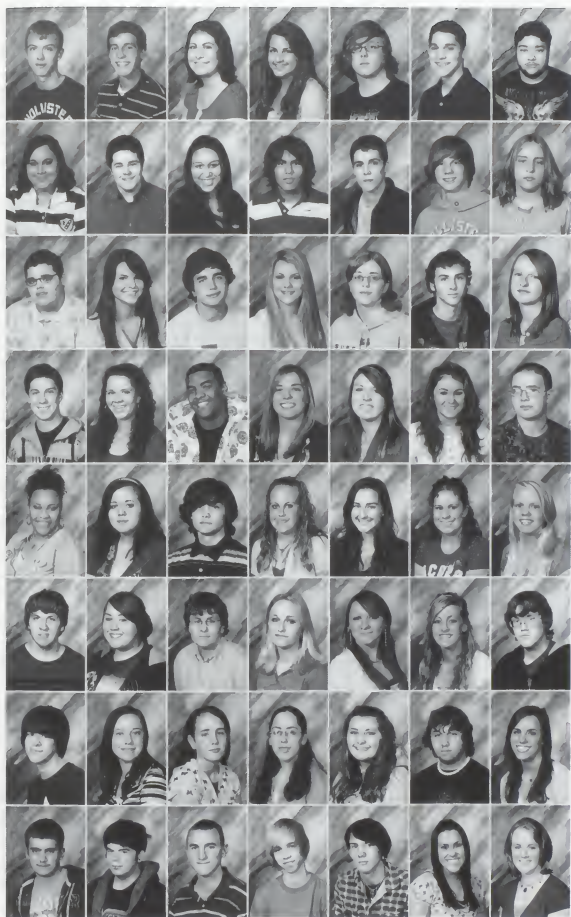


Eric Rivera
Victoria Rivera
Katherine Rivich
Heather Robinson
Jennifer Rocha
Bruno Rodriguez
Alfredo Rodriguez



Anthony Rodriguez
Jesse Rodriguez
Juan Rodriguez
Julianna Rodriguez
Samantha Rodriguez
Brett Ronk
James Ross





Cody Rossi
Justin Ruiz
Jennifer Sable
Darya Sadchikova
David Samaniego II
Nathan Samano
Jonathan Sanchez

Kaitlin Sanchez
Johnathon Sandrey
Cynthia Santiago
Christopher Santos
Craig Schaefer
Kyle Schiller
Jimmy Scott

Garrett Shaffer
Amalia Shanks-Meile
Michael Sheehan
Kira Sheeman
Samantha Sheets
Josiah Sherrow
Ashley Sholar

Michael Sikora
Alejandra Simmons
Christopher Simmons
Sherri Sisk
Emily Smith
Janae Smith
Neil Smith

Raneshia Smith
Stephanie Smith
Tyler Smith
Hannah Smock
Jessica Sobocinski
Stephanie Sowers
Heather Spence

Kyle Spencer
Jessica Spicker
Alex Srednoselac
Ashlee Stanley
Brittany Stanley
Kelly Stanley
Brandon Starr

Richard Statler
Katie Steele
Sarah Stevenson
Jamie Stone
Samantha Stover
Samuel Stoye
Dana Stronczek

Dustin Sturgill
Terrence Sullivan
Jeffrey Suthers
Brandon Sutkowski
Shaun Swain
Maggie Switzer
Megan Szabo

Carolyn Tackett
Jamlatu Tahiru
Stephanie Talley
Tyler Tampier
Johnny Taylor
Scott Taylor
Brandon Terpstra



Rubin Thomas
Ashley Thompson
Brianna Thompson
Michael Thornbury
Katelyn Tiernan
Ryan Timmons
Stephanie Timmons



Michael Torres
Kyle Trzeciak
Sarah Ann Tucker
Jacob Turner
Amanda Twilla
Samantha Tylka
Nicholas Untch



Dwayne Vales
Maxwell Van Wormer
Kiaya Vanbuskirk
Justin Vanover
Leonel Vasquez
Nicholas Vaughan
Derrick Vaulx



Alicia Vega
Gregory Vickery
Jasmin Villegas
John Villegas
Tivon Waddell
Joshua Walker
Jamika Walton



Jessica Walton
Bryan Waters
Robert Wathern
Dustin Watkins
Kenneth Watt
Andrea Wattles
Shane Weber

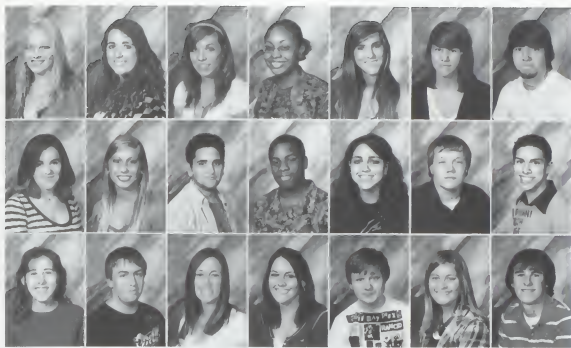


Zhuoxin Wei
William Weinberger
Bradley Welbourne
Jessica West
Robin Wheeler
Larry Whiting
Ashlee Whitten



Kaila Whitten
Lauren Wighaman
Maria Wilhelm
Jacob Wilkinson
Alison Williams
Gavin Williams
Heather Williamson





Cynthia Willis
Ashley Wilson
Britney Wilson
Leonna Wilson
Kaitlin Winowitch
Alexa Wolak
Dennis Wright

Jessica Wright
Kayla Wright
Shawn Wright
Sherman Yancey
Amanda Yonushatis
Ian Young
John Zapata

Holly Zaragoza
Donald Zarych
Krystyna Zatorski
Valerie Zielinski
Eric Zilz
Elizabeth Ziulkowski
Jackson Zyla



Junior Whitney Johnson poses by her art that was featured in the Art Show. The Art Show features all different types of art. Photo by: Natalie Johnson



Juniors Samantha Rodriguez and Alicia Vega wait for the ball at one of their soccer games this year. They are both on the varsity team. Photo by: A.J. O'Reilly

McMurray makes school, wrestling his priorities

Winning state in any sport is a dream a lot of student athletes have. However, for Sean McMurray, that dream became a reality this year. He went to state for the PHS wrestling team and brought home a victory. "I was overwhelmed. It felt like a dream. I wrestled that match hundreds of times in my head, but it felt more amazing in reality," McMurray said about his win.

Besides participating in wrestling, he helps recycle after school and coaches the wrestling program for younger kids here. McMurray

also keeps good grades in his classes, which include two Advanced Placement courses. He worked hard to make it as far as he has in wrestling. "It [winning state] has been my goal since I was two years old. I knew I could hang with anyone, it was just a matter of who wanted it more," said McMurray. His hard work and dedication to the sport really paid off. *Story by Brittany Coates*

Sophomore Sean McMurray struggles to avoid being pinned at this year's state wrestling tournament. *Photo provided by Chris Santos*

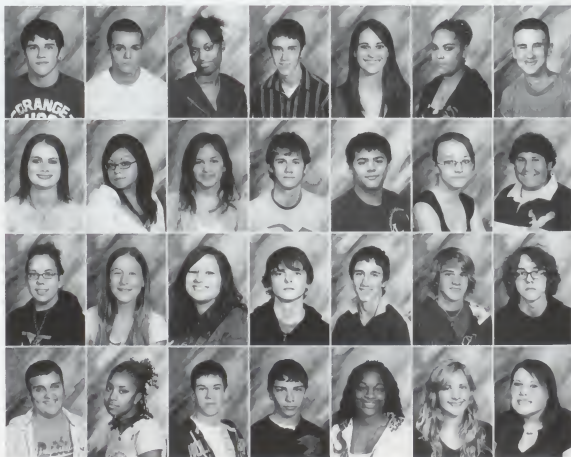


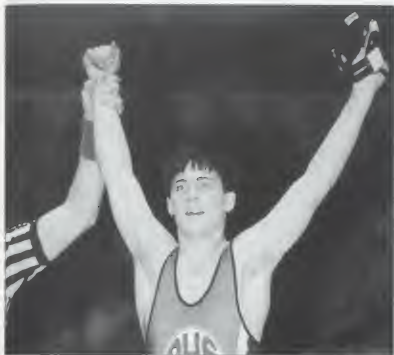
Chase Adams
Michael Adams
Siara Adams
Kyle Adkins
Amanda Alasauskas
Stephanie Alvalles
Sean Alvey

Courtney Anderson
Irene Angulano
Kaitlynn Anzel
Justin Antecki
Caleb Anthonijiz
Brittany Arriaza
Nicholas Arroyo

Alexis Asher
Amanda Ashford
Racquel Ashley
Stephen Ayres
Robert Ayres
Alec Back
Joel Bailey

Joseph Bain
Shatara Banks
Nicholas Baraba
Benjamin Barnes
Denisha Barnes
Emily Barnes
Robin Barnes





The referee raised sophomore Sean McMurray's hand in the air after winning this year's state wrestling tournament.
Photo courtesy of IHSAA



Sarah Barreda
Roy Barrera
Thomas Barrett
Kyle Bartolac
Christopher Barton
Nicole Bauer
Kevin Baumann

Kyle Bauske
Cody Beal
Briana Beasley
Stephanie Bedalow
Ryan Bell
Amanda Benson
Lauren Berman

Kailey Berryman
Kiana Best
Amber Biddings
Taylor Billings
Autumn Birkmeyer
Rami Bishop
Alyssa Black

Julissa Blackmon
Nicholas Bligh
Bradlee Blue
Brittany Bogdan
Ashley Boger
Timothy Bohle
Alexandra Bolin

Carlos Bonilla
Anthony Bowen
Megan Brammer
Andrew Bretzinger
Mallory Bridges
Armando Briones-Tejeda
Brenden Brown

Catherine Brown
Erwin Brown
Danielle Bryan
Wesley Buckmaster
Jack Buehler
Mea Bujna
Aaron Burcham



Gregory Burchuk
Marcus Bush
Courtney Byrd
Miryam Cabrales
Michael Calhoun
Donald Campfield
Eric Cannon



Angelo Canter
Kyle Canterbury
Angelina Cardenas
Emily Carpenter
Taylor Carpenter
Karaline Cartagena
Brandon Carter



Dawn Caudill
Timothy Cawthon
Emmanuel Chacon
Ashley Chaja
Vincent Chandler
Zackery Chappell



Sophomores Sarah Herald, Tiffany Lucas, and Jen Fultz are pumped for the first game of the '07 football season.
Photo by Katie O'Brien

Sophomore Keenan Ruzza tries to get the sophomore class into the spirit while wearing a cheerleading uniform at this year's pep rally. Photo by: Katie O'Brien





David Charnetzky
Luis Chavez
Dolores Christopoulos
Shelby Ciena
Cody Claxton
Matthew Clifford
Jessica Cochran

John Collier
Carlos Colon
Dominique Colunga
Dary Concoy
Jacob Cook
Kristin Cooper
Dylan Coran

Courtney Corbett
Shannon Corcoran
Jonathan Cox
Megan Cox
Melissa Cox
Tiffany Croy
Alicia Crump

Michelle Culp
Matthew Cunningham
Nicole Dabrowski
Zachery Daggett
Jonathan Dahlin
Darien Davis
Maryah Davis

Luke Deckard
Elizabeth Delacruz
Rebecca Delacruz
Louis Deleon
Matthew Demmond
Mark Devyak
Rosalie Dexter

Yvette Diaz
Marissa Dillon
Michelle Dingman
Demonte Dinkins
Seiche Dogan
Evan Dominguez
Amanda Donnelly

Brenda Driver
Roger Driver
Daniel Drummond
Randel Drummond
Alexandria Duarte
Aaron Duncil
Winter Dunn

Katherine Dwyer
Kyle Eastman
Sean Edwards
Amanda Elkins
Amber Elkins
Tara Ellis
Andrew Embry

Jacklyn Ensign
Eric Espinosa
Alyssa Evetts
Kalynn Ewing
Jabria Ezell
Wayne Fagan
Ashley Farley



Micah Farley
Cheyenne Farr
Patrick Farrell
Timothy Fausto
Sara Feehan
Amanda Fengya
Sarah Ferguson



Cody Fields
Nicole Fine
Christina Fink
Lorna Fink
Malena Finney
Ashley Fisch
Julie Fletcher



Miguel Flores
Sarah Flores
Christopher Forney
Amanda Fortenberry
Tylar Foster
Christopher Frahm
Mario Franco



Courteney Franklin
Johnathon Franklin
Traci Franklin
Lauren Freeman
Jennifer Fultz
Emma Ganske
Kenny Garcia



Steven Garcia
Matthew Gardner
Jesse Garibaldi
Christopher Garus
Devin Garus
Corey Garzella
Matthew Gaskin



Timothy Gehrels
Sharon Gil
Ashlee Gilliam
Andrea Glancy
Nathan Gland
Marcell Glover
Joshua Gobin



Ashley Goldsmith
Frank Gonzales
Andres Gonzalez
Carrie Gonzalez
Cristina Gonzalez
Eric Gonzalez
Katelynn Govert





Natalie Griffin
Kelly Grish
Anthony Grochowski
Raven Gue
Justin Guerrero
Carlos Gutierrez
Rebecca Hajduk

Danielle Hakes
Amy Halford
Dylan Hall
Timothy Hall
Desi Handley
Robert Hanna
Trevor Hardiek

Nicole Harnung
Jaime Haro
McKenzie Harsha
Breanne Harvey
Arzell Hathorne
Adam Hawkins
Raynard Headd

Cory Hebda
Bradley Heckman
Megan Henderson
Danielle Henson
Sarah Herald
Jennifer Hernandez
Pedro Hernandez

Brandon Herrera
Frank Herrera
Jacklyn Herrman
Angela Higginbotham
Jameela Higgins
Courtne Hilton
Maria Hinson

Rebecka Hoadrea
Ryan Hodges
Zachary Hoggard
Michael Hoover
Michael Hord
Starla Howe
Michael Howell

Melissa Hudson
Tiffany Hughes
Eriberto Huizar
Damian Hunt
Lindsey Hutchins
Laterrian Hutton
Erin Jackman

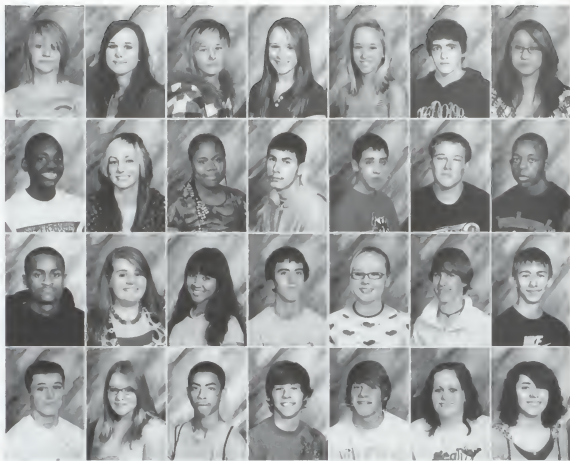
David Jackowski
Domenyk Jackson
James Jackson
Kayla Jacobs
Janet Jagiela
Nathan Jania
Katelyn Janiga

Candace Janis
Lindsey Jendryczka
Amber Jetmund
Jennifer Jett
Leanna Jett
Eric Jimenez
Abigail Joffre

Aramis Johnson
Brittany Johnson
Chanel Johnson
Daniel Johnson
Kristopher Johnson
Benjamin Jones
Marcus Jones

Michael Jones
Rachel Jordan
Noppawan Junyanid
Brandon Kalch
Andrea Kaminski
Craig Kaminski
Ryan Kaminski

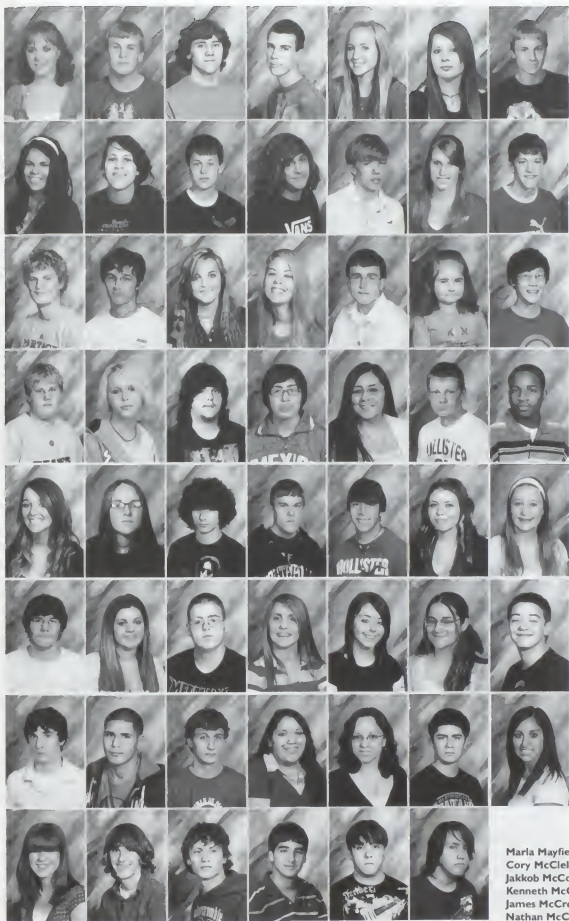
Andrew Keil
Shelby Keith
Jeffery Kelley
Sean Kimes
Aaron King
Molly Kirby
Cristina Kladis



Sophomores Austin Parker, Giovann Taylor, and Andrea Hallmen practice their cooking skills in one of the FACS classes. Photo by: Melissa Deavers

Sophomore Christina Gonzales works hard on a test in one of her classes. Photo by: Amy Muhammad





Amanda Klenk
 Kyle Knotts
 Daniel Komenda
 Alexander Konecny
 Jacqueline Kopcha
 Kathryn Kopper
 Kyle Kremke

Annie Lachowicz
 Melanie Lachowicz
 Dylan Lafrance
 Curtis Lane
 Travis Larson
 Sarah Leach
 Eric Lee

Jonathan Lehmann
 Alexander Linville
 Carrie Lipe
 April Lira
 Christian Little
 Avery Livingston
 Kendrick Lo

Derek Logsdon
 Cassandra Loney
 Charles Long
 Armando Lopez, Jr.
 Yvonne Lopez
 Jacob Lowe
 Damonte' Lowery

Tiffanie Lucas
 Nicole Lustru
 Timothy Mack
 Nathaniel Malast
 Jose Maldonado
 Vanessa Maldonado
 Amanda Maletta

Kyle Malone
 Angelina Malott
 Thomas Manning
 Camille Manoski
 Sarah Marcotte
 Alysha Mardis
 Andrew Marek

Terry Markwell
 Ivan Martinez
 Jacob Martinez
 Melissa Martinez
 Natalie Martinez
 Raul Martinez
 Veronica Mata

Marla Mayfield
 Cory McClellan
 Jakkob McCormick
 Kenneth McCoy
 James McCready
 Nathan McCurdy

Taylor McCurdy
Joslyn McDonald
Megan McFadden
Nyasha McGhee
Emily McGrath
Angeline McMiller
Sean McMurray



Melissa McNorton
Brittany McQueen
Kevin Meadows
Richard Medellin
Alyssa Medlin
Joseph Medrano
Kruti Mehta



Nikolas Melendez
Desirae Mendez
Myles Mendoza
Allison Mesarch
Nicholas Miceli
Kelsey Mikita
Bonnie Miller



David Mills
Andrew Moehl
Sarah Molnar
Tyler Monahan
Christopher Moore
Meranda Moore
Brittany Morales



Stephanie Morenz
Elizabeth Morey
Brittany Moritz
Luke Morris
Derrick Morrison
Thomas Mosley
Jaclyn Moss



John Mourani
Melissa Mula
Thomas Mullins
Amanda Muniz
Luis Murrillo
Autumn Murray
Eric Murray

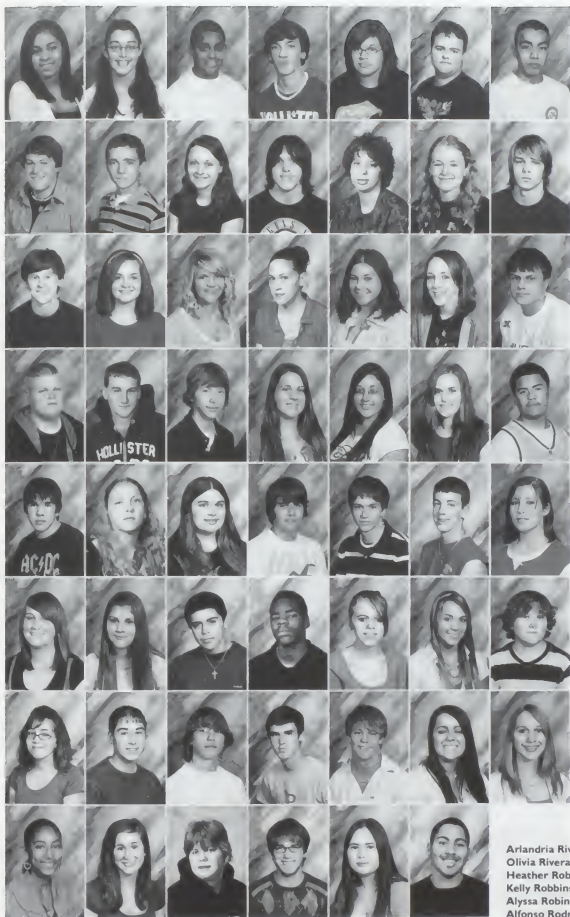


Michelle Nafus
Raquel Nardini
Donte Nelson
Michael Nelson
Sarah Newton
Anthony Nichols
Drewann Nobles



James Nolan
Kali Norrfrey
Britni Novina
Joshua Oakes
Steven Oatridge
Mallorie Oetman
Matthew Ortiz





Mercedes Ortiz
Ashley Otero
Kendall Owens
Dylan Ozbolt
Amanda Padilla
Jason Panozzo
Israel Pantoja

Austin Parker
Sean Parpart
Anna Pasnicka
Steven Patterson
Tayla Patterson
Rebecca Paulson
Corey Peeler

Kyle Peksenak
Hope Pennington
Abigail Percifield
Aliesha Perez
Elizabeth Perez
Tracey Perrine
Stephen Perry

Jacob Petretta
Coy Peyton
Dakota Pineda
Samantha Piro
Amanda Plebanski
Marissa Pollock
Jon-Luc Ponce De Leon

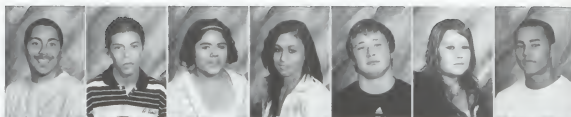
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Nicole Potts
Rachel Poulidakis
Richard Prott
Lucas Purcell
Adam Raber
Alexis Rae

Breanna Rajca
Brittany Ramirez
Christopher Ramos
Shawn Randle El
Brandiace Rarity
Braelyn Rasco
Matthew Rayner

Amber Reed
Michael Reed
Nicholas Retherford
Jeffrey Reynolds
Justin Rhein
Jade Richey
Amber Riley

Arlandria Rivera
Olivia Rivera
Heather Robbins
Kelly Robbins
Alyssa Robinson
Alfonso Rodríguez

Alfonso Rodriguez
Christopher Rodriguez
Dyalissa Rodriguez
Isabella Rodriguez
Jonathon Rodriguez
Danielle Rogers
Anthony Rojas Rosado



Alexandria Roman
Victor Roman
Rosaida Rosado
Joshua Rose
Breanna Roseberry
Casandra Rosen
Robert Rosen



Julian Rosillo
Caressa Rospieski
Jordan Rudzinski
Jayme Russell
Keenan Ruzga
Samantha Sacek
Tonya Saklaczynski



Robert Salas
Monique Samardak
Salvador Sanchez
Nikita Santos
James Savage
Jason Schaeffer
Rachel Schest



Christopher Schreier
Randy Scobey
Mariza Serrano
Michael Serrano
Amanda Servaty
Jessica Shaffer
Aaron Sharbnow



David Sharp
Zachary Shay
Brandie Shell
Michael Shendrick
Ashley Sickles
Anna Simmons
Donald Skalka

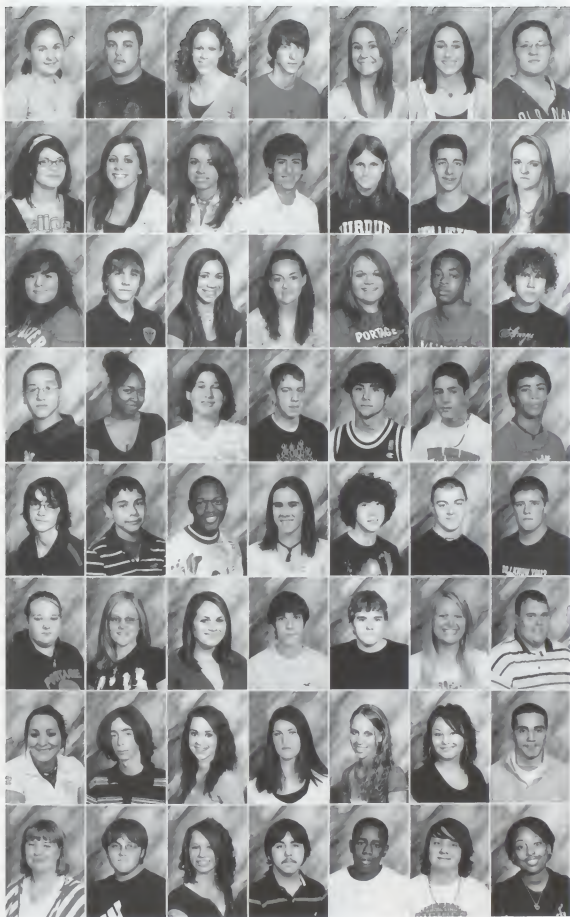


Vanessa Slinker
Ashley Smith
Casey Smith
Matthew Smith
Sarah Smith
Sharice Smith
Timothy Smith



Rhiannon Smolar
Emily Smolen
Nikolas Snow
Christine Solis
Lamia Solite
Nathan Sommers
Jeremiah Spencer





Rebeka Spicker
David Spurrier
Kristyn Stanfield
Ethan Steele
Tara Steepleton
Jordan Stelger
Tia Stephenson

Courtney Stoltman
Mallory Stowers
Courtney Stutler
Jacob Sullivan
Jamie Sullivan
Cale Summers
Nicole Sutton

Megan Swick
Gary Tarr
Erica Tellez
Holly Tharp
Clarissa Thomas
Mon'Trell Thomas
Ryan Thompson

Robert Thorne
Jamila Thurmond
Stephanie Tibbs
Michael Tischbein
Cameron Tolman
Damien Torres
Michael Torres

Zachary Tosh
Robert Tovar
Terry Townsend
Chelsea Trader
Bret Trowbridge
Michael Trujillo
Adam Tschida

Ashley Tschida
Ashley Tulacz
Stephanie Tyrka
William Udchitz
Brendon Umbs
Stacia Upton
Allan Urbanczyk

Haley Urquidi
Charles Vandenburgh
Lauren Vandersteen
Kathleen Vangilder
Ashley Vanover
Alexis Velez
Joshua Velez

Amber Vettore
Andrew Vild
Shawna Vizona
James Walla
Dominique Walton
Dylan Ward
Brittanie Warren

Mary Waters
Heather Watson
Samantha Weaver
Keshia Webb
Thomas Webber III
Christopher Weber
Ian Weber



Brandon Welbourne
Brittney Weldon
Carissa West
Cassandra Wheeler
Brittany White
Lauren Whitman
Nicholas Whitney



Douglas Wible
Andrea Wick
Kayla Wilken
Alexandra Williams
Jeffrey Williams
Morgan Williams
Shelby Williams



Tyler Williams
Iromiya Williams-Gary
Sterling Williamson
Courtney Wilson
David Wilson
Justin Wilson
Taylor Wilson



Brianne Wischman
Hannah Wise
Jordan Witten
Mark Woolum
Caleb Wright
Jasmine Wright
Laura Wright



Ryan Wright
Alexander Young
Nicholas Young
Michael Zajicek
Jasmin Zamora
Brian Zarakas





Sophomore Nessa Junyanid gets a tee to get ready for Portage's first golf outing of the year.
Photo by: Melissa Deavers



Sophomore Morgan Williams works on an assignment with her class in the computer lab.
Photo by: Katie O'Brien

Freshman class learns consequences of bullying

Bullying in schools always seems to be a problem in one way or another. This year, the freshman, and even the sophomores, learned in a creative way what bullying does to people on both ends of it. The people from All Access out of New York came to PHS and did a convocation to teach kids how much bullying can hurt. The presentation was, in some ways, structured like a musical. The actors and actresses sang, danced, and acted their way through a phenomenal performance. "I would recommend showing it [the convocation] again because it showed that everyone has problems," said freshman

Johnny Figueroa. The performance began with a band performance, then the props were used to create the look and feel of a school hallway. The different "cliques" were shown and it depicted the interaction between the students and how they treated each other. There were a couple story lines, a comedic janitor, and some musical numbers. This convocation seems to be one that kids will keep in mind. *Story by: Brittany Coates*

Two actors from the convocation do a scene that made the audience crack up with laughter. *Photo by: AJ O'Reilly*

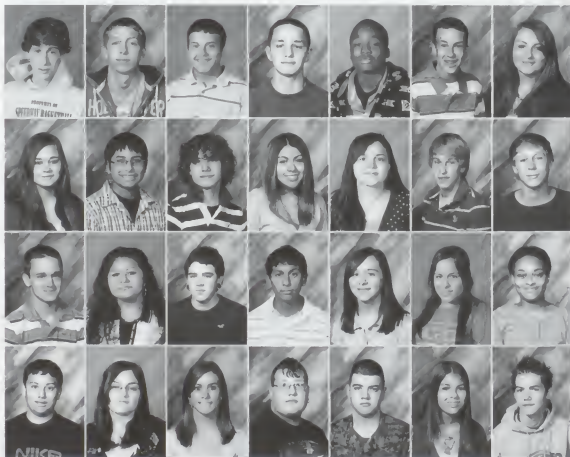


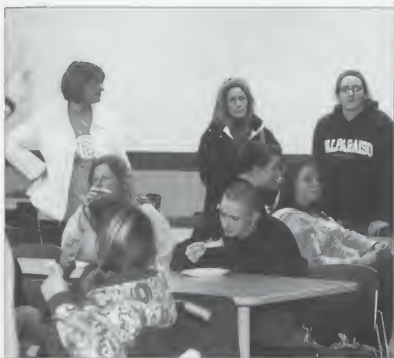
Alexander Abbott
Austin Ackermann
Alexander Acosta
Luis Acuna
Walter Adams
Timothy Ahner
Danielle Aimone

Sabrina Alaniz
Hilario Alicea III
Craig Alley
Clarissa Alvarez
Yesenia Alvarez
Dean Anderson
Dylan Anderson

Jeremy Anderson
Melissa Anguiano
Tyler Anteck
Carlos Aragon
Crislyn Arcuri
Mercedes Arellano
Jacquelyn Arnold

Richard Arredondo
Ashley Arriaza
Kristen Ashby
Matthew Austin
Nicholas Ayres
Amanda Bach
Rodney Back





Students from the freshman and sophomore class enjoy pizza before their convocation. Photo by: A.J. O'Reilly



Jennifer Bailey
April Baker
Eniroque Balerini
Luis Ballesteros
Brian Barnes
Megan Barner
Michael Barnes

Allen Barrett
Tiffany Barrientez
Ashley Barton
Rileigh Basich
Taylor Basich
Kaitlyn Baugh
Dillon Beaudry

Tyler Beck
Kendra Becker
Madison Becker
Samantha Becker
Kiefer Beghtel
Matthew Bell
Stephanie Benak

Angel Berg
Carly Bermes
Diana Bernal
Angel Berndt
Elizabeth Berns
Michael Berridge
Zachary Berti

Charles Bertolo
Randi Gail Bigheart
Heidi Bilderback
Zachary Bish
Ashley Blastick
Clarissa Blazek
Tori Bliss

Eleanor Bloom
Ethan Boehm
Amanda Bogolin
Tyler Bohling
Paige Bomba
Heriberto Bravo
Jordan Breezley



Ashley Brinnehl
Jordan Brown
Kaitlynn Brown
Tyler Brown
Donald Brownfield
Michael Brunner
Michael Budz



Joshua Bugarin
Ashley Burbee
Mary Burnett
Kaytlynd Burns
Caitlyn Burr
Rita Burton
Marcos Cabrales



Scott Cairns
Stephanie Call
Zachary Camel
Lauren Campbell
Sean Campbell
Lance Canales
Kyle Carlotta



Tristian Carr
Grace Casimer
Erin Cassidy
Juan Castaneda
Eliisa Castillo
Cory Castor
Christopher Cather



Joseph Cepolski
Liane Cesare
Nicholas Chaja
Erica Chambers
Lauren Chambers
Daniel Chavez
Gesenia Chavez



Heather Cheek
Anthony Cheky
Allen Cheng
Taylor Chenoweth
Christian Cherry
Gregory Childress
Alicia Ciesielski



Marisa Clare
Abigail Clark
Dalton Clark
Joshua Clay
Lyndsi Clay
Catherine Clem
Jason Cochran





Andrew Cody
Jonathan Coffing
Adam Coffman
Tyler Coleman
Victor Colon
Jeremy Colvin
MacAlester Connors

Megan Connors
Richard Contreras
Brandon Coppinger
Jeffrey Craig
Brandon Crandall
Brooklyn Creech
Kayla Crews

Tiffany Cross
Kevin Crowe
Mitchell Croy
Lindy Crum
Antonio Cuevas
Eric Curbow
William Curry

Jessica Dabrowski
Thomas Damon
Christine Darcey
Sarah Davies
Zachary Davies
Adrianna Davis-Coco
Jonathan De St Jean

Christina Delturco
Anna Demmon
Thomas Derr
Courtney Deweese
Kyle Diaz
Sarah Dienes
Kristijan Dimitriovski

Jacob Dixon
Torrey Dixon
Kimberly Doble
David Dobson
Brittany Doll
Trent Doud
Kyle Dranchak

Eric Driver
Julie Dube
Ashley Duda
Jesse Duque
Julian Duron
Amber Dusard
Daniel Dutton

Darren Duvall
Benjamin Dvorscak
Cameron Eaton
Nicolas Echevarria
Kaden Edmonds
Dustin Edwards
Alexandra Elisha

Samantha Elkins
David Elliott
Gregory Ellis
Elizabeth Embry
Robert Emmart
Matthew Emmons
Angel Encinas



Scott Ershick
Richard Espino
Nicholas Etheridge
Abigail Evans
Danielle Evans
Kristy Evans
Kylie Evans



Eric Ewing
Ross Falk
Bernadette Fannin
Jonathan Feliciano
Paul Ferrand
Ray Ferrer
Johnny Figueroa



Michelle Figueroa
Reinaldo Figueroa
Haley Fine
Christopher Fink
Kayla Fink
Vincent Fischer
Brandy Fisher



Girls in this freshman gym class "pump it up" in the weight room. Photo by: Melissa Deavers



Freshman students practice their swimming skills in the West pool. Photo by: Melissa Deavers



Georgeanna Fisher
Anjellica Flatt
Jose Flores
Martin Flores
Mason Flores
Rachel Foreman
Morgan Franklin

Kyra Fuller
Jordan Gaboian
Timothy Gaffney
Joshua Galvan
Alison Gannon
David Gant
Sydney Garland

Erica Garneau
Desiree Garnett
Daniel Gasaway
Ashlee Gast
Lazsher George
Nathanial Gerber
Jessica Gertner

Derek Gertzzen
Danielle Gibbs
Calvin Gibson
Kevin Gibson
Breosha Gilbert
Jacob Glass
Christina Golden

Valentin Gomez
Bianca Gonzalez
Maribel Gonzalez-Martinez
Heather Goodman
Kiara Goshay
Derrick Graves
Tyler Green

Deide Greider
Derek Gresser
Chandler Griffin
Richard Griffin
Jordan Grindey
Justin Grzelak
Alexandria Guerra

Elizabeth Guglielmetti
Greg Gurrola
Samantha Guzman
Jonathan Hall
Kevin Hall
Andrea Hallmen
Ashley Hallmen

Tia Hammerstein
Megan Hammons
Sarah Handley
Lisa Harbaugh
Brittany Harmon
Dustin Harrington
Ashley Harris

Elizabeth Harris
Megan Harris
Autumn Hebda
Michael Henry
Sarah Hensley
Alicia Hernandez
Irving Hernandez



Jasmine Hernandez
Elizabeth Hicke
Kevin Hinkle
Kevin Hock
Darrius Holland
Stephen Holland
Aron Holt



Daniel Holtzman
Kelly Holtzman
Amanda Horn
Jacquelynn Huber
Davonte Hudson
Amanda Hughes
Jeramie Hughes



Nathaniel Huizar
Matthew Hunter
Jonathan Hurst
Samantha Hurst
Kayla Husted
Zachary Huston
Briana Igras



Michelle Iliff
Kylie Ingersoll
Simone Ingram
Cody Jackson
Deandre Jackson
Daniel Jarosak
Davilyn Jarvis



Steven Jeffrey
Jai Queli Jenkins
Tarra Jenkins
Harley Jewett
Coty Jimenez
Sierra Jimenez
Jessica Joganic

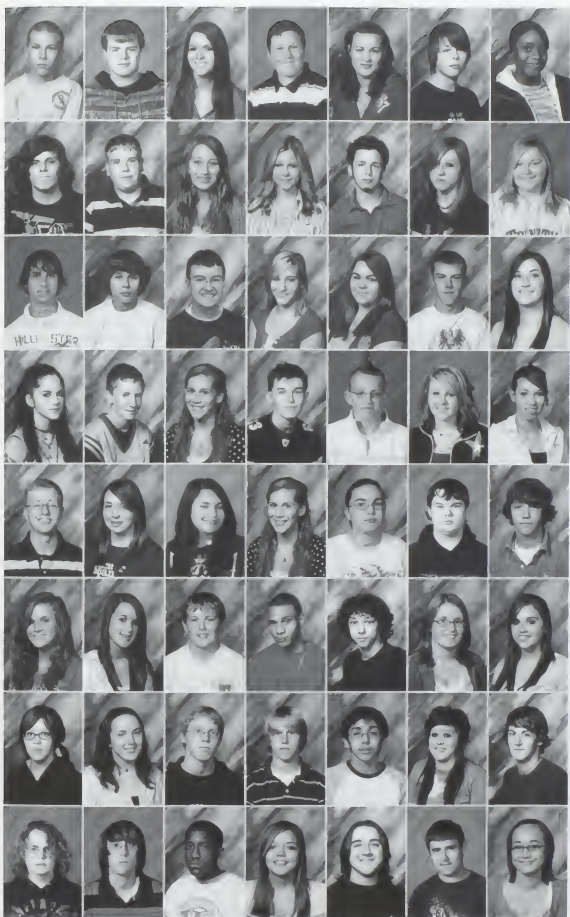


Briana Johnson
Danielle Johnson
Darrion Johnson
Nathan Johnson
Alex Jones
Eric Jones
Lawrence Jones



Ashley Jordan
Jonathan Jordan
Joseph Juhasz
Haley Kado
Kristin Kalch
Ashley Kazen
Valerie Keen





Jonathon Keilman
Brandon Kender
Taylor Kibble
Killian Kidd
Stacy Kidwell
Brandon King
Jabria King

Joseph Kirk
Benjamin Kiser
Brianna Kiser
Alyssa Knaga
Kurt Knudsen
Alison Koedyker
Kelly Kohler

Jeffrey Kolbus
Raymond Kollasch
Bryce Komenda
Natalie Korpak
Jessica Kozlowski
Timothy Kranick
Colleen Kuczwar

Halie Kuzio
Joseph Laczkowski
Breanne Lahart
Jeremy Langman
Frederick Langston
Cassandra Larimore
Katrina Larson

Dustin Last Name
Sabrina Lattanzi
Sabrina Laviena
Brianna Layhart
Megan Layton
James Leary
Tyler Lello

Ashley Lesnick
Nicole Leveritt
Jack Lewis
Leland Lewis
Nicholas Lewis
Tonya Lewis
Samantha Liberto

Jordan Linville
Alexandra Littke
Jordan Lively
Cody Logsdon
Anthony Lomeli
Brittany Long
Kenneth Longfellow

Johnathan Longo
Christopher Lopez
William Paul Lowe
Samantha Loza
Jake Luciano
Russell Lukosius
Maranda Lundy

Miranda Lundy
Norma MacEo
Briana Maddox
Brianna Majewski
Christina Major
Stefanie Malkimos
James Mancilla



Timothy Manning
Cody Marczewski
Ashlee Markle
Alexander Marsh
Cody Martin
Daniel Martin
Alexander Martinez



Mayra Martinez
Niko Martinez
Adam Massey
Benjamin Mathewson
Christopher Mathis
Cory Mayberry
Aaron McCart



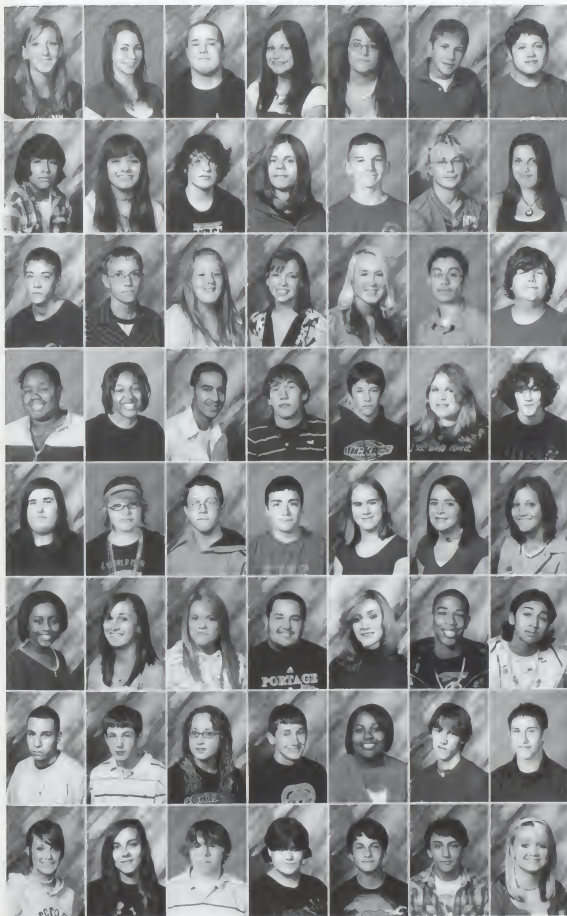
Cody McClellan
Kelsie McClellan
Angela McConnehey
Cheyenne McCormick
Jacob McCumber
Alyssa McDowell
Jessica McElfresh



Freshman Lexi Elisha shows off her singing skills in the choir performance. Photo by: Melissa Deavers



A freshman student works out in the new fitness room in the field house. Photo by: Melissa Deavers



Erika McEwan
Kristie McFry
Steven McGucken
Marissa McQueen
Amber Medanich
Eric Meleic
Jonathon Mendez

Josue Mendez
Kaitlyn Mendez
Egan Mergl
William Metz
Jeffrey Miller
Maverick Miller
Olivia Miller

Robert Miller
Stephen Miller
Sydney Miller
Kayla Mills
Ashley Minder
Sameeh Mirza
Alexander Mischke

Diamond Mitchell
Kierra Mitchell
Michael Mitre
Zachary Mlynski
Jeremy Mocabee
Brittany Mock
James Mokol

Terry Moreau
Allison Morey
Rodney Morin
Benedict Moris
Grace Morris
Megan Morris
Alanna Mossell

Tarra Motton
Anita Mourani
Melissa Murray
Gabriel Myers
Sarah Nadolski
Marshun Neeley
Adrian Negrete

Miguel Negroni
Steven Nelson
Hannah Neuberg
Casey Newcomb
Angelica Nicholson
Jonathan Noe
Matthew Nordyke

Kelly Norris
Corina Nunez
Daniel O'Brien
Stephanie O'Mahoney
Marcus O'Reilly
Timothy O'Shaughnessy
Crystal Oar

Catrena Ojeda
Karissa Olson
Alexandria Ornelas
Rafael Ortiz-Gonzalez
Orlando Ortiz
Sarah Overvall
Christopher Owens

Lorenzo Parker
Jacob Parrish
Christopher Pastoriza
Parth Patel
Michael Patillo
Alyssa Patterson
Ashley Paugh

Tristan Pearman
Valerie Pecher
Dalton Peek
Susana Pena
Natasha Pepper
Alexie Perez
Isaac Perez

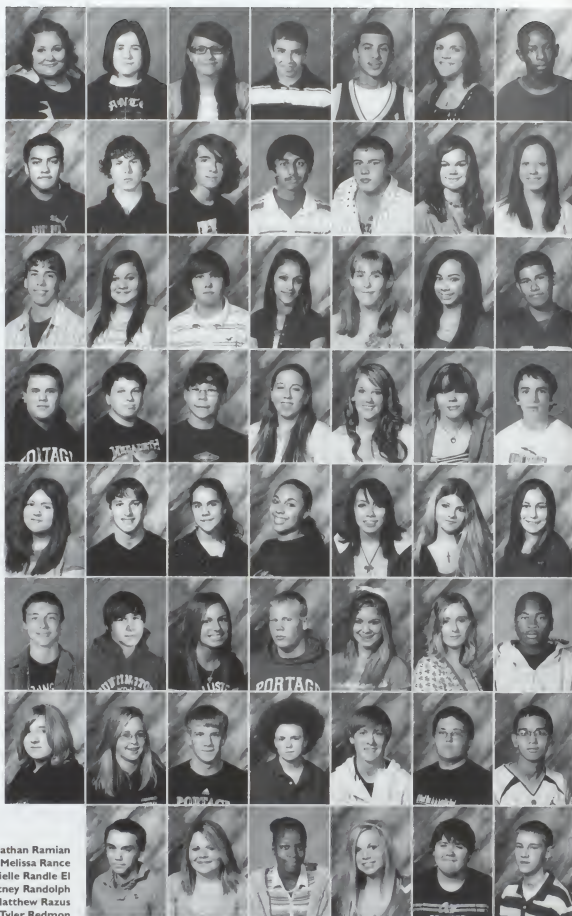
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Colton Petroski
Adam Petyo
Ashley Pezan
Cara Pfeiffer
Emily Phillips
Joshua Pidgeon

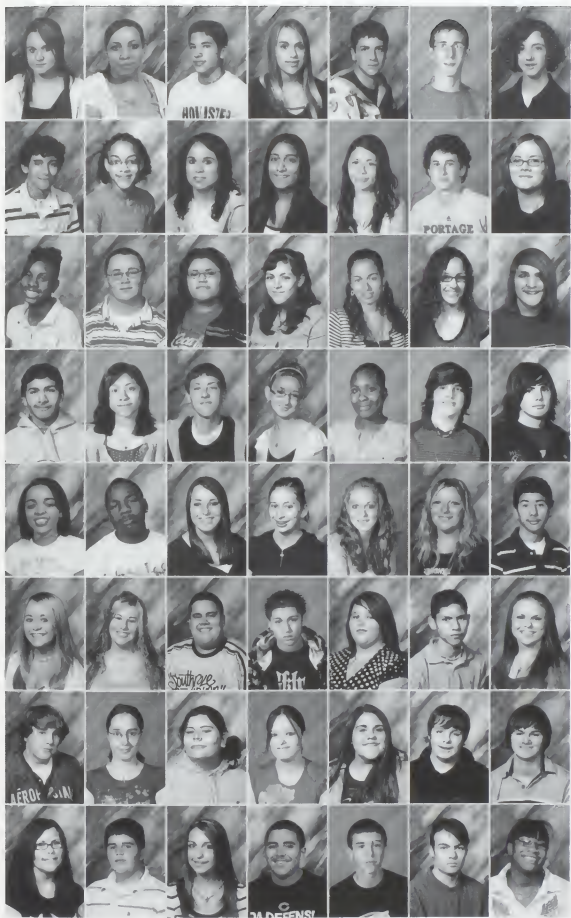
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Lucas Piner
Michelle Plance
Shakila Pletka
Mariah Pol
Samantha Polak
Erika Pope

Ryan Pope
Jonathan Potts
Allison Poznanski
Brandon Price
Jessica Price
Megan Price
Travis Pride

Jessica Propeck
Ashlee Prusynski
Samuel Puchalski
Austin Punskey
Chadd Purcell
Nicholas Radtke
Brian Rak

Nathan Ramian
Melissa Rance
Danielle Randle El
Courtney Randolph
Matthew Razus
Tyler Redmon





Megan Reese
Brittany Reyes
Dimas Reyna
Gabrielle Rhoads
Michael Richards
Ryan Riggie
Ryan Rivas

Daniel Rivera
Fionne Rivera
Katalina Rivera
Vaneshca Rivera
Vaneshlie Rivera
Sean Roberts
Megan Robinson

Renishia Robinson
Billy Rodriguez
Briana Rodriguez
Carolyn Rodriguez
Cynthia Rodriguez
Jamie Rodriguez
Jimmy Rogers

Jose Rojas
Maricruz Rojas
Jose Romo
Katherine Rose
Sharonda Ross
Damien Rossworn
Zackary Rote

Tara Rowland
Cordero Roy
McKenzie Ruiz
Devan Rushing
Michelle Sabich
Rebekah Saikin
David Sanchez

Clarice Sanders
Tiffany Sanders
Daniel Santana
Josue Santiago
Kelsey Santiago
Luis Santiago
Alyssa Sass

Keith Sasser
Ashley Satanek
Adriana Saucedo
Bobbi Saylor
Elizabeth Saylor
Corey Scher
Patrick Schinella

Rachel Schoon
Nicholas Scott
Michelle Shafer
Albert Shane
Paul Shane
Lee Sheehan
Brittany Shelton

Trevor Shufford
Ricardo Silva
Jeremy Sinkus
Brandon Sirbas
Danielle Sischo
Jocelyn Sloan
Kyle Smart



Andrew Smith
Ashley Smith
Bianca Smith
Brandon Smith
Nathaniel Smock
Richard Sneed
Alyssa Snook



Jessica Someson
Kylie Someson
Matthew Sowers
Jimmy Spicer
Jesse Spillers
Lyssa Springman
Taylor Srednoselac



Allison Stacy
Melissa Steinburg
Brandon Stemple
Ashley Stepaniak
Ariel Stepanovich
Jonathan Stephens
Matthieu Sternberg



Samantha Stevenson
Arielle Stevenson-Hunter
Brandon Stockstill
Justin Suggs
Katie Sullivan
Cody Sult
Christopher Swier



Brendon Swindle
Emily Szymanski
Timothy Talley
Clarissa Talmadge
David Tamietto
Kyle Tampier
Jacob Tapper

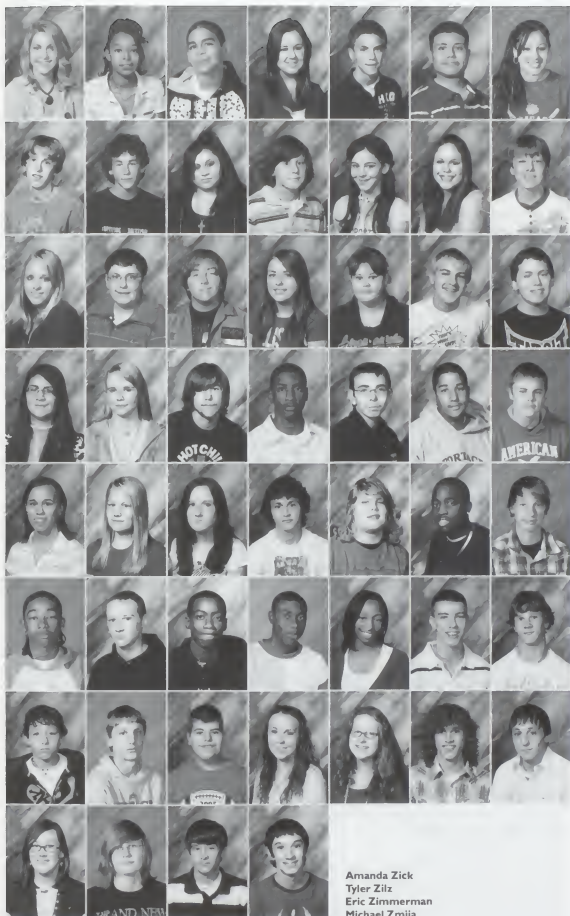


Jeremy Tauges
Shelby Taylor
Jodeci Thilmont
Amanda Thorn
Kyle Timmerman
Ashley Tindle
Ashley Toney



Crystal Trinidad
Cinthya Trujillo
Kayla Turner
Andrew Tuthill
Amber Vacanti
Kristin Vandersteen
Todd Varaneckas





Taylor Vardaman
India Vasquez
John Vasquez
Victoria Vaughan
Zachary Vaughan
Daniel Vela
Estrella Vera

Kory Vettore
Aaron Vixena
Andrea Waddell
Brian Walker
Kayla Wallace
Brittany Watts
Nathan Waugh

Hayley Weathers
Brian Weaver
Jeffery Webb
Alexis Weber
Brittany Weber
John Weger
Brandon Welp

Christina West
Meagan West
Clinton Wight
Dre'Keyl Wilcher
Justin Wilkerson
James Wilkins
Daniel Williams

Dawn Williams
Kelly Williams
Robyn Williamson
Daniel Wilson
Jacob Wirick
Ke' Andre Witcher
Robert Wood

Roy Woodard
Aaron Woods
Anthony Woods
Antoine Woods
Jawanza Woods
Nichalus Worman
Joshua Wright

Joshua Wurster
Joshua Yakei
David Ybarra
Kylee Yeomans
Sarah Yingst
Adam York
David Zack

Amanda Zick
Tyler Zilz
Eric Zimmerman
Michael Zmija

The Kotyuks' compassion wins them the award

There are very many gifted teachers and administrators here at Portage High School. However, this year, two of the most influential and well-known teachers were honored with a very prestigious award that they greatly deserved. Miss Gerri Kotyuk and Miss Kathy Kotyuk, twins and English teachers here at PHS, were honored with the Teacher of the Year Award.

Both Kathy and Gerri teach English to juniors and seniors at a variety of levels.

"My sister and I have spent our entire teaching careers working together to create the most effective lesson plans possible. It is an honor to share this award with an outstanding teacher and my best friend," Miss Kathy Kotyuk said.

They have received many ACES awards

from various students, but this allows all of their students to celebrate what great teachers they have.

"My first thought was that this is the most exceptional honor an educator can receive, and I was thrilled that the honor was bestowed upon my sister and myself," said Miss Gerri Kotyuk said.

They both deserved this award not only because of their teaching ability, but also because of their passion and love for what they do. They always encourage their students to strive for their best. *Story by Brittany Coates*

Kathy (left) and Gerri Kotyuk were awarded the Teacher of the Year award for their dedication to their profession. *Photo by Katie O'Brien*



Sgt. Maj. Ken Altizer
Jacklyn Anderson
Heidi Babcock
Joseph Bachon
Sandy Back
Robert Beigh
Amy Bertalan

Justin Biggs
William Bodnar
Amy Burke
Shirley Bustos
Carrie Carlson
Heather Castle
Josh Cavan

Lois Chalmers-MacMillan
Cheryl Clapp
Stephanie Crook
Fred Crowe
Lynette Dean
Melissa Deavers
Rhonda Doane

Peggy Dotswon
James Downes
Gaby Dunnnett
Mary Anne Eckhart
Tom Erickson
Vicki Evans
Darla Foreman





English teacher Miss Gerri Kotyuk explains an assignment to one of her classes. Her sister's classroom is right next to hers, and they enjoy visiting each other's classes. Photo by Katie O'Brien



Deborah Gannon
Vanessa George
Michelle Goebel
Nicholas Haas
Robin Halberstadt
John Hall
Debra Heitmann

Sandra Herr
Linda Hicks
Sara Hildebrand
Jay Hodges
Tami Hudson
Kathleen Hull
Amanda Isakson

Maj. John Johnston
Rob Kania
Ryan Kardash
Mark Karmel
Melanie Karmel
Charity Kehoe
Thomas Kenning

Becky Konoyima
Kathy Kotyuk
Gerri Kotyuk
Leslee Kretz
Richard Kretz
Katherine Kubiak
Annette Kulmatycki

Tim Kunstek
Mike Lipinski
Barbara Lochmondy
Bryan Lochmondy
Jill Mangold
Carrie Martin- Smith
Mark Marvin

Rich Mason
David Masty
Dana McCoy
Kara Miller
Terry Milner
Patrick Moody
Dwight Moser



Helen Mundell
Greg Mundt
Arlene Neil
Marian Park
Robert Parker
Lori Pavell
Linda Peda



Mark Peterson
Henry Pimentel
Rob Prellwitz
Jill Redman
Wendy Reigel
Wanda Rice
Aaron Riegle



Virginia Rivera
Carolyn Rodea
Jose Rodea
Lila Rudd
Millie Ruzbasun
Tammy Schreiber
Darryl Schultz



Kathy Shrader
Marge Slamkowski
Debbie Smith
Rick Snodgrass
Marcia Soyster
Barbara Spitler
Lisa Spoolstra



Donna Stanton
Cynthia Stojic
Todd Strom
Marilyn Svetanoff
Caren Swickard
Robert Symer
Heidi Thibideau



Gail Trobaugh
Renee Turpa
Paula Wiese
Barbara Williams
Troy Williams
Lynn Wilson
Lynn Winland



Donna Wirick
Yan Wolfman
Chris Woods
Dawn Yonanovich
John Zack



PHS bids farewell to retiring teachers



BARB AND RICHARD MASON

Since 1970, these two teachers have put all their hard work and time into Portage High School. Richard and Barbara Mason have both spent the last 38 years teaching the students of PHS.

Barbara Mason is retiring to find some more time to explore her life.

"My favorite years were

the years my sons Eric Mason and Ryan Mason attended PHS, spanning 1991-1999," Barbara Mason said.

She enjoys the friendly, yet professional, atmosphere of PHS and the cooperation and effort given by a great amount of students that attend here.

"Teaching is a very

demanding job; you deserve to be very proud of what you do," Barbara Mason said.

As many know, Richard Mason has become a legend here at PHS. He was the basketball star of his time, but there's more to him than just being a cool guy that once played collegiate basketball. He is a great science teacher

Story by Stacey Martinez

and has put his hard work into teaching earth space science to the students of PHS.

"My favorite year would have to be 1995 because both of my sons attended school here at PHS," Richard Mason said.

He plans of doing a significant amount of traveling after he retires.

RUTH PARKS

After 29 years of beating kids in bad-mitten, Mrs. Ruth Parks is retiring.

Even though her bad mitten skills are superb, she assures that she isn't going pro.

"If I went pro, I think that I would get beat as bad

as I beat the high school kids," Parks said.

Though Parks is retiring, she is not going to stop working. After considering a job at Bass Pro Shops Outdoor World, she later decided on a different career choice.

She is planning to start her own personal assistant

business.

"What I'm going to do is, say your parents need an electrician to come to your house and they have to go to work, I'll come to your house and wait for him to come," Parks said.

Parks claimed she will miss teaching kids of all

generations in families.

Ruth Parks will never be forgotten at Portage High School, she will be remembered for caring about her P.E. students, having a fun-loving attitude, and being constantly determination to beat every single student at bad mitten.



Story by Alec Back



JILL MANGOLD

Jill Mangold, currently an English teacher, will be retiring after 20 years of dedication to Portage High School.

"I intend to spend some time with my elderly mother, I have two beautiful

grandchildren that I plan to spoil, my husband is retiring and we are wanting to travel while we are still healthy enough to enjoy it! And my condo in Florida is waiting for me!" Mangold said.

In addition to teaching English, she has been a

SAGA publication sponsor, an Academic Competition coordinator, a nursery school teacher, a junior high school substitute at Lake Central and a freshman composition teacher at Purdue University for eight years.

"She is a fantastic educator and a beautiful

person. PHS will be losing one of its best with her retirement, but I wish all the best as she goes onto the good life," senior Dillon Albee said.

Mangold has made a huge impact on not only her students but the school as a whole as well.

Story by Steffane Christian

YAN WOLFMAN

After 25 years of teaching here at PHS, Mr. Wolfman has decided to call it quits. Unfortunately, there will be no more entertainment from the teacher that can balance a chair on his nose, or do

a handstand on another man's hands.

"I couldn't handle two jobs anymore," Wolfman replied.

He does not plan on just sitting at home after retirement, however.

"I am going to continue to do massages, and shipping containers of cars overseas," Wolfman said.

He also said that he has stayed at PHS because he "obviously enjoyed working here because I wouldn't have

stayed so long if not."

The aspect Wolfman is going to miss the most about Portage is the students. The thing he likes the most about PHS is that it is "not as snobbish as the other high school."

Surely many students will hear stories of Mr. Wolfman, whether they are about his balancing chairs on his nose or his crazy stories of the circus, but they will never get to experience him as a teacher.

Story by Danielle Prusynski



KATHY AND GERRI KOTYUK



As the school year winds down, the senior class is not the only ones counting the days. For a set of twins who have been at this school for much longer than four years, the end of this school year will bring more than a vacation; it will bring travel and relaxation.

Kathy and Gerri Kotyuk are two names many students of Portage High School know. They are interchangeable, but unique, and one can find it hard to not have an enjoyable time

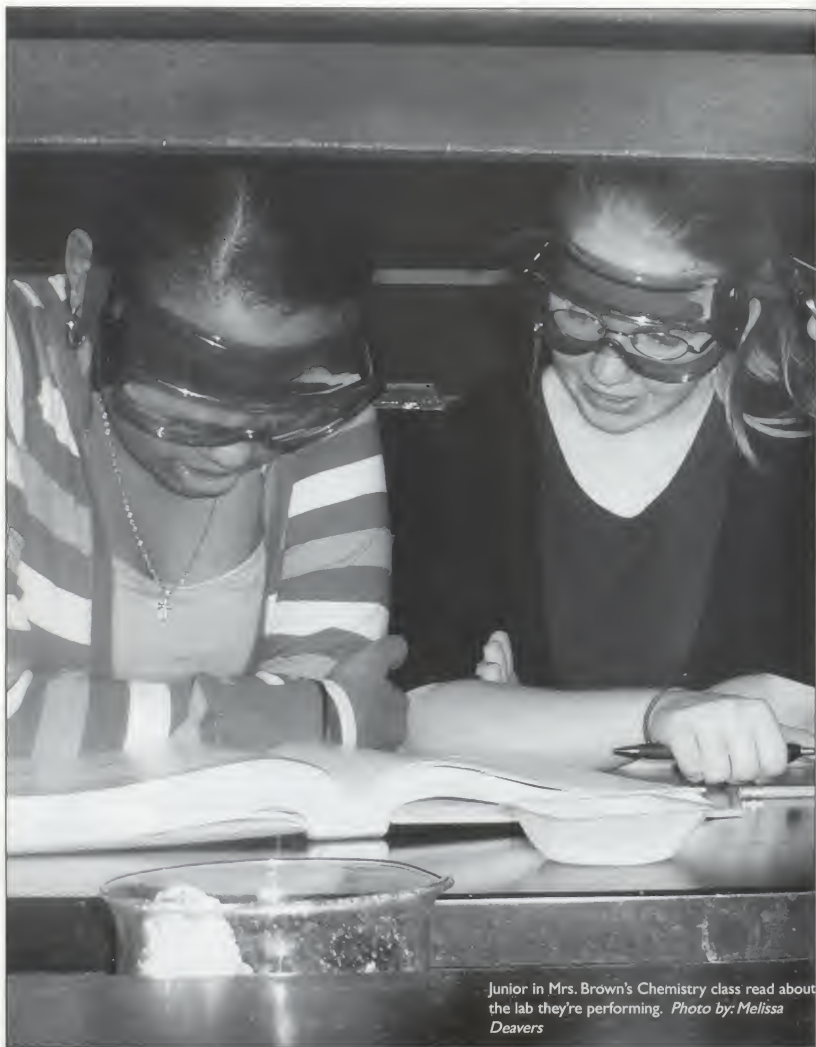
in their classroom. The dynamic duo has been teaching at Portage High School for 36 years.

"Most of all I will miss the interaction with all the wonderful students at Portage High School. I will also miss the friendships I have developed with many faculty members," English teacher Gerri Kotyuk said.

Through the 36 years of teaching, the Kotyuks have been challenging students to push to their fullest potential. Both have a

unique way of teaching the most basic of English assignments, whether the lesson is on Shakespeare or agreement errors. "The Kotyuks will be greatly missed and are all around great teachers. It's like the last 36 years of their teaching here has just flown by. They are passionate educators and have made many connections with students. They will be missed," Carren Swickard said.

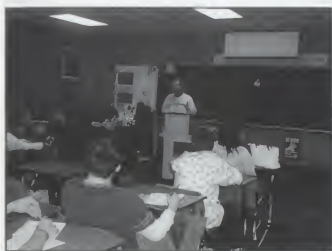
Story by AJ O'Reilly



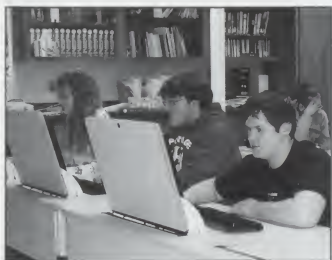
Junior in Mrs. Brown's Chemistry class read about the lab they're performing. Photo by: Melissa Deavers



Seniors Stephan Marjanov and Chris Moss perfect their cooking skills by doing a lab in their FACS class. *Photo by: Melissa Deavers*



A classroom of students listen intently to their teacher. *Photo by: Katie O'Brien*



Some students in one of the new English classrooms do their homework on the pop-up desk computers. *Photo by: Katie O'Brien*

“The different types of classes at Portage High School allow the students to get prepared for the careers they wish to have in the future. The subjects the students are allowed to take help them decide what profession they want to have.”

Leslie Bailey, II

EVOLVE
let your mind

Students began completing school work on new Moodle

This year we were introduced to a lot of things, such as a new building, new televisions, new computers, and much more. Not only were students introduced to new computers, but a new way to do homework and class work online as well.

What is the name of this new computer program? And how does it work? The name is Moodle, and it's an up-and-coming, new way to take classes and to do homework online right here in school. The online program allows students to submit homework assignments online and allows teachers to retrieve

and check the assignments.

In the new addition to our school located in the area that was formerly the media center, there are computer desks, but as you walk into the room you wouldn't see any computers there. There is a special way to pull the computers up. With the push of a button, the screen will come up.

Many of the students are fond of using the Moodle on the new desks. Students can do their homework, class work or whatever it may be all online.

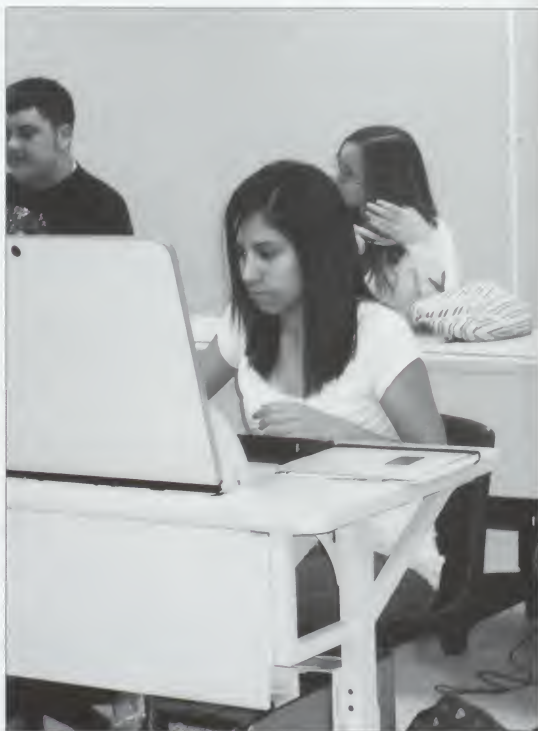
This new program worked well during this year. It is a great way to sit at a computer desk and do work or homework online.

"This year we were introduced to many things. Our school is getting better every year. It is like taking a whole class online," said an English student.

Surely this program will continue to be used for many years to come. Teachers love it, students love it, everyone loves this new program Moodle. *Story by Veronica Trinidad*



A student asks a question of English teacher Gerri Kotyuk during her English class. *Photo by Mike Sikora*



A student in one of the new English classrooms uses the new "pop-up" computers to do some in-class work. *Photo by Amy Muhammad*



Students work hard on completing their school work and homework on the new computers. They use computers located in the new addition in the East building on the new online program called Moodle. *Photo by Amy Muhammad*



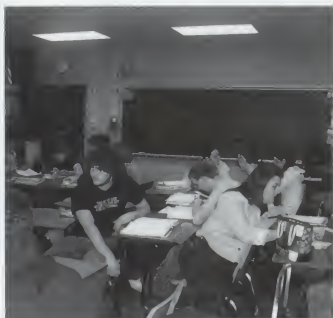
Juniors Whitney Johnson, Nicole Hudson, and Elise Mullen listen and learn in one of their English classes. *Photo by Amy Muhammad*

Portage High School gave each teacher new terminals that connect wirelessly to the new televisions. Teachers with computer lab classrooms often gave their students Moodle assignments and checked them from these terminals. *Photo by Amy Muhammad*

Students in Mr. Schultz's ninth mod math class listen and take notes as he explains how to use a math equation he referred to during the class as "Pie ARRRR squared." Photo by Samantha Jones



Students in Donna White's ninth mod Algebra 2 class work together in groups on an in-class assignment. Photo by Samantha Jones



Algebra and geometry teacher Donna White helps junior Brittany Wilson with her Algebra 2 homework during class. Photo by Samantha Jones

Sophomore Carissa West demonstrates a problem on the board in front of Cheryl Clapp's ninth mod math class. Photo by Samantha Jones



Teachers prove why math is so valuable

The way a student learns math is very simple and very easy. Students pay close attention and understand the meaning to a problem and work it out. Reviewing a problem over and over again to help a student understand is only the beginning to help the student accomplish tasks to help them do well on the SAT's, PSAT's and ISTEP's.

Taking math throughout the whole year, maybe even all throughout high school, is a good way to get started in life.

"I feel that math is a very important part of life. I mean, everyone needs it and math is what will be used more in the future. I have had math all of my years of schooling so far. And come to think about it, it's really not that bad. I feel that

by learning all that I can now, it will help me out when I am a senior and take my SAT's. So I say that everyone should love math because it will help on any type of test, whatever kind it may be," sophomore Nicole Sutton said.

No matter if it's algebra, geometry, calculus, or whatever it may be, the students have taken the learning opportunity to do well for the SAT's.

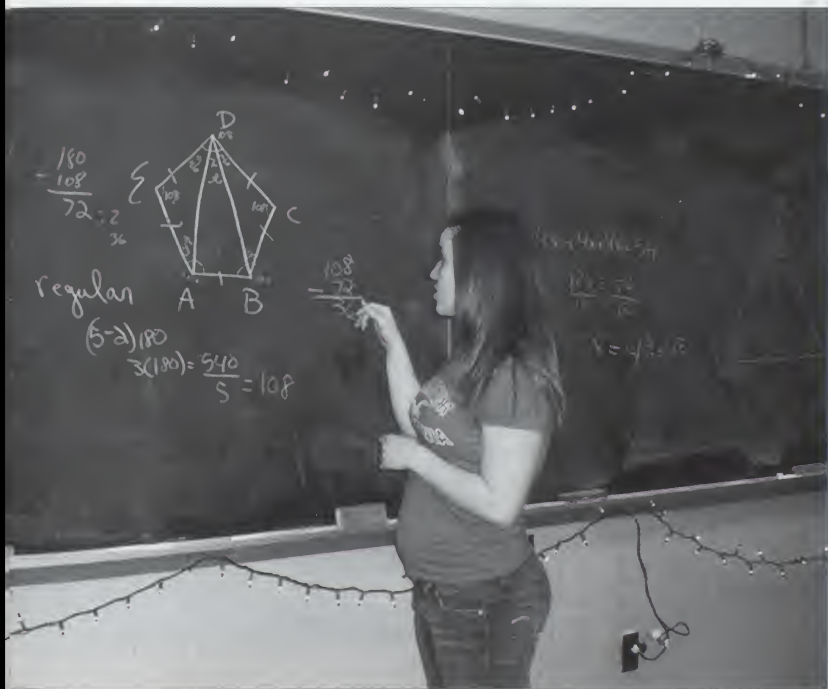
This year the school has been trying out new things and new ways to try and get each student to do well on the math section in any type of standardized test, and to improve their test scores from the previous years.

"I believe that this year, when the students took any type

of test, I believe that they did very well compared to last year when any of the test were being taken," Sutton said.

Having the students do a problem over and over again until they get it right, what the teachers call "remediation," is a great way to help the students get the processes into their brains so it stays there, especially to help them for the ISTEP or the SAT's.

This year was a great year, but there are sure to be many more ahead of us. It's been a great year for all of the students to improve on their math scores. Sure enough, when it was all done, many students did very well when it was time for them to take their tests. *Story by Veronica Trinidad*



Web page for animations and videos helps students

This year more and more programs are being used in all of the classrooms. In the Science Department particularly, the teachers are beginning to use a web site to help out with the lessons. This program has been around the school for quite a while, and it is still being used today.

This program is also a way to have fun with the students and help them learn at the same time. This web site has been used as an alternative to using the board and the overhead all of the time, or even just teaching straight out of the book.

Using this program brought a new and exciting way to help the students understand what they are being taught. Also, it brings fun and animation to whatever lesson they are learning at the time.

"I have been using it for the last three years in the

classroom and it does help the students better understand what we're discussing," biology teacher Mr. Drew said.

Believe it or not, this new way of teaching is not anything new. However, it is a better way for the students to learn in a better way, especially since the installation of the new televisions.

The site that was being used is www.pearsonsuccessnet.com. The students in Drew's class were given a user name and password to allow them to view lessons and use study guides before tests and quizzes. Any of the chapters, sections or whatever they were searching for are all listed on the web page as well.

"Before the televisions were installed, I used a projector with my computer to do the activities. I still prefer the

projector as it makes the images much larger and easier to see," Drew said.

For as much as this web site service has helped the students, it has been a big help to the teachers in aiding their quests to teach their students as well.

The teachers said they had a great time using the web site this year, and used the program as a fun way to help the students. Using the new televisions to teach the lesson meant not always having to use the dirty chalk or using the overhead and ending up with marker stains all over their hands.

This new web site has been used throughout the years by the teachers and will continue to be a great way of teaching the students to have a better understanding of all of the areas of science. *Story by Veronica Trinidad*



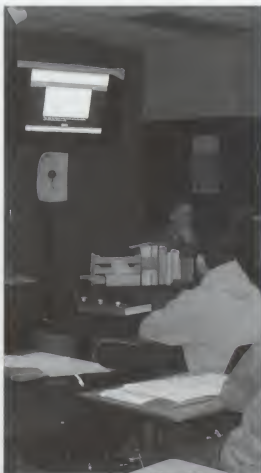
Sophomore Luis Murillo works on a lab in Carrie Brown's ninth mod science class. *Photo by Melissa Deavers*



Students in Carrie Brown's chemistry class organize their materials for an experiment. *Photo by Melissa Deavers*



Students in Carrie Brown's science class read the directions to their lab before mixing the chemicals. The girls made sure to take proper safety precautions before starting the experiment. *Photo by Melissa Deavers*

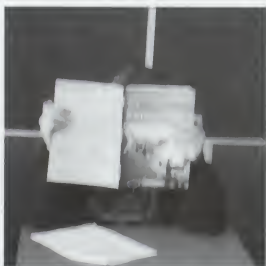


Students in Mr Barto's physics class watch an online lesson on the new televisions installed in all of the classrooms this year. *Photo by Samantha Jones*

A student works hard on an assignment in Mrs. Goebel's US History class. Photo by Katie O'Brien



Toyin Ayangande shows how Nigerian people are dressed for ceremonial weddings. The speaker was brought in by social studies teacher Linda Parker. Photo by Amy Muhammad



A student in Michelle Goebel's ninth mod class immerses himself in a book about the Korean War. Photo by Katie O'Brien



Seniors Justin Willis and Melissa Hale listen to a representative for Barack Obama speak to them about the upcoming election. Photo by Katie O'Brien

Social Studies dept. revamps economics

With transitions at an all time high, the social studies department made some helpful changes of its own.

There was a totally "revamped" course in the social studies department. This redesigned class was economics. Economics is a required course for students, in favor of obvious reasons.

"Every part of life deals with some form of economics," Michelle Goebel, social studies department member said.

The focus was really on polishing the changes and improving the helpfulness of social studies classes to the students. The class has been expanded to cover the "global economy, how the economy works in America, and micro and macroeconomics," Linda Parker, department chair stated.

"My economics class has already helped me. I can understand what is making the economy change, how to invest my money and how to successfully manage my life in the future," said senior Jayne Korpak.

\$12,000 was spent towards improving the social studies department this year. The money covered everything from new reading materials to CD's used to design games and crosswords.

The main goal of the social studies department this year was to "fine tune state standard based curriculum and develop common assessments to insure all students are learning and moving forward," Parker said.

Story by Ashley Archie



A social studies student shows off her Nigerian wedding outfit to an audience of social studies classes. *Photo by Amy Muhammad*

Two students carefully work on taking notes in their ninth mod class. *Photo by Katie O'Brien*

PHS bands receive top honors in state

Everything that the band department touched turned to gold. From concerts to contests, this department was on the road to success.

The All-Music Award was just one of the golden achievements of the music department.

"To get the award means that all of our HS performance ensembles earned a Gold rating at respective contests," department chair and band director Robert Symer explained.

In order to win the award the band department had to put in some work of their own. The music department could not have won the All-Music Award without the band department's contribution.

"It also means that at least one student from band, orchestra and choir made it to the state level, and received a gold rating at State and Ensemble contest in Indianapolis," Symer said.

For the band department, Gold was the color of choice.

Story by Ashley Archie

Sophomore Ashley Otero and junior Stephanie Talley focus while practicing a piece for an upcoming concert. *Photo by Melissa Deavers*



Freshman Stephanie O'Mahoney plays her French Horn with the rest of her section during her mod 2 band class. *Photo by Melissa Deavers*

Sophomore Mallory Bridges works on a particular section of a song during her mod 9 jazz ensemble class. *Photo by Melissa Deavers*





Sophomores Elizabeth DeLaCruz and Cristina Kladis focus on band director Robert Symer as he directs them through a song. Photo by Melissa Deavers

Alexander Acosta

Ashley Arriaza

Amanda Ashford

Matthew Bell

Ryan Bell

Corey Bingham

Ashley Blasick

Mallory Bridges

Sarah Brown

Ashley Bulbee

Angelo Canter

Lisa Carroll

Jessica Carson

Grace Casimer

Liane Cesare

Vincent Chandler

Shannon Corcoran

Amber Cox

Eric Curbow

Ariangela Davis

Elizabeth DeLaCruz

Jonathan De St Jean

Courtney Dewese

Joshua Djurich

Evan Dominguez

Aleda Douglas

Benjamin Dvorscak

Dustin Edwards

Michael Elkins

Stephanie Espinosa

Michal Farley

Kelly Ferguson

Vincent Fischer

Rachel Foreman

Corey Gaines

Stephanie Gerbick

Bianca Gonzalez

Maribel Gonzalez-Martinez

Gail Goodan

Kelly Grish

Matthew Hallman

Sydni Harris

Anthony Hatfield

Rachel Heckman

Barbara Hess

Lameela Higgins

Meredith Hodges

Ashleigh Janiga

Abigail Joffe

Aramis Johnson

Valerie Keelin

Brett Kenworthy

Brian Kum

Joshua Kitchen

Cristina Kladis

James Klimczyk

Allen Kozik

Travis Larson

Jonathan Lehmann

Nathan Livingston

Ambrosia Maddox

Joslyn McDonald

Ann-Marie McGee

Steven McGucken

Melinda Misch

Alexander Mischke

James Mokol

Stephanie O'Mahoney

Sara Ortiz

Ashley Otero

Ann Parobek

Alyssa Patterson

Natasha Pepper

Isaac Perez

Miranda Perez

John Perry

Adam Petyo

Kyle Poracky

Alex Proper

Nicholas Radtke

Breanna Rayda

Melissa Rance

Deziraie Renovaes

Darcy Richardson

Nicholas Rigoni

Katherine Rovich

Kelly Robins

Heather Robinson

David Samanego

Joselyn Santos

Amalia Shanks-Meile

Samantha Sheets

Maerose Siroky

Nathaniel Smock

Stephen Smolinski

Richard Sneed

Jessica Sobocinski

Nathan Sommers

Justin Suggs

Jacob Sullivan

Carolyn Tachetti

Stephanie Talley

Timothy Talley

Rubin Thomas

Ryan Thompson

Kyle Timmerman

Emily Tolliver

Andrew Yild

Brenda Villanueva

Jeffery Webb

Bradley Welbourne

Kayla Wilken

Gavin Williams

Morgan Williams

Isabel Williams

Nicholas Worman

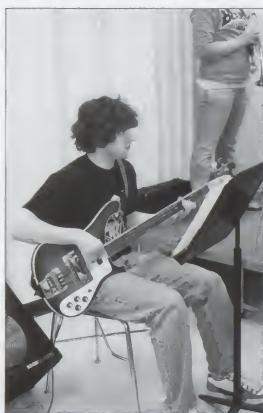
Caleb Wright

Ian Young

David Zack

Caleb Zamora

Amanda Zick



Junior Gavin Williams plays the bass during his mod 9 jazz ensemble class. Photo by Melissa Deavers



Junior Tiffany Palagyi studies her music while playing in her orchestra class. *Photo by Melissa Deavers*



Junior Victoria Rivera, along with the rest of the cellos and basses, listen to director Carrie Carlson as she helps them through a difficult part in their music. *Photo by Melissa Deavers*

Dillon Albee	Sean Parpart
Dwayne Arrald	Tristan Pearman
Nicholas Arroyo	Alexis Petrak
Rhonda Ashford	Gisela Pierce
Elizabeth Berni	Manah Pol
David Berridge	Rachel Poulidakis
Michael Berridge	Megan Price
Lindsay Birbee	Megan Rawdon
Adam Coffman	Ryan Richmond
Kevin Crowe	Victoria Rivera
Ariangela Davis	Alyssa Robinson
Seiche Dogan	Alfredo Rodriguez
Scott Ershick	Julianne Rodriguez
Sara Feehan	Jimmy Rogers
Michelle Figueroa	Katherine Rose
Chrissina Fink	Lee Sheehan
Jennifer Fletcher	Alejandra Simmons
Jonathan Geske	Anna Simmons
Michelle Gottschlich	Ashley Smith
Eryn Hale	Kristyn Stanfield
Tia Hammerstein	Ashlee Stanley
Lindsey Hutchins	Zachary Stoehr
Janet Jagiela	Jamie Stone
Amanda Klenk	Megan Szabo
Misty Lay	Kyle Treziak
Samantha Maples	Ashley Tulacz
Kelsie McClellan	Stacy Vaillo
Stefan Muller	Heather Watson
Stephanie Morenz	Brian Weaver
Brittany Moritz	Jessica West
Alanna Mossell	Morgan Williams
Ozge Nemutlu	Sarah Young
Sarah Newton	Jennifer York
Amanda Padilla	David Zack
Tiffany Palagyi	Alisha Zick



Junior Christina Fink and freshman Elizabeth Bems pay careful attention as they work on a particular part in a piece for their spring concert. *Photo by Melissa Deavers*



Sophomore Morgan Williams and freshman David Zack work on a difficult section with band director Robert Symer, who was brought in to give his opinions on their contest music. *Photo by Melissa Deavers*



Orchestra receives top award in state

Orchestra took off to a faster tune with its brand new facility. The department advanced as far as to win the "All-Music Award."

"Only a handful of music departments throughout the state qualified and even fewer earned the honor," director Carrie Carlson stated.

She was proud that the department earned this recognition and made it clear that they had put in effort to achieve it.

"Our staff worked hard to prepare our students for the rigorous and demanding schedule needed to meet requirements," Carlson said.

Practice must have made perfect for the orchestra department because only three other schools in the state of Indiana earned the "All-Music Award." The teachers and students shared a mutual excitement about winning the award.

"I was so excited about the award and I was proud that the department received it," freshman Sarah Pingst said. *Story by Ashley Archie*



Members of the mod one intermediate orchestra class go over a difficult measure in a piece of music. *Photo by Melissa Deavers*

Freshman Sarah Pingst focuses while she practices a part of a piece for the orchestra's spring concert. Pingst was also the concertmaster for the intermediate orchestra. *Photo by Melissa Deavers*

Choirs take advantage of new additions to wing

The choir department sang a refreshed tune as they buzzed about some brand new additions to their facility.

"We were able to take advantage of practice rooms, large ensemble rooms, a music technology and piano lab, new recording equipment, and a state-of-the-art choral rehearsal space," Aaron Riegel, choir director, stated.

The school corporation and the community made the new facility possible.

"The new space is bigger, brighter, and more conducive to helping our choir students be the best musicians they can be," Riegel commented.

Choir provides an important opportunity for students and they were excited about the new additions.

"We even get to make demos, it's really awesome!" junior Nathaniel Lawry exclaimed.

Riegel believed that the new additions to the department and the change in scheduling gave more students the opportunity to participate in choir.

"My favorite part about being in the choir is being able to work with some amazing people and singing great songs," senior Liz Broody said. *Story by Ashley Archie*

Freshman Lexie Elisha prepares herself to sing during this year's spring choir concert. Elisha is in choir teacher Aaron Reigle's mod two class. *Photo by Melissa Deavers*



Members of the male section of the choir wait for their entrance in a song during their practice for their spring concert. *Photo by Melissa Deavers*

Members of the alto sections of the choir belt out the final note in a song during this year's spring choir concerts. *Photo by Melissa Deavers*





Senior Melissa Hile sings a song during a practice run of this year's spring choir concert. Hile is involved in the advanced choir, as well as Choraliers. Photo by Melissa Deavers

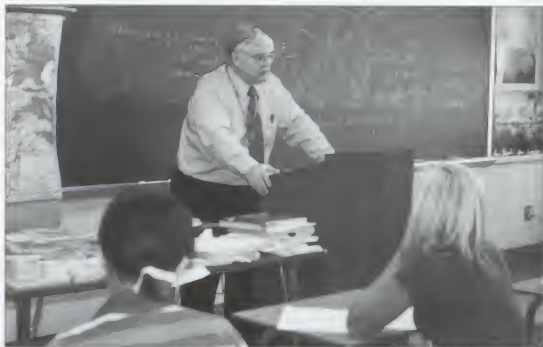


Members of the base section of the choir sing their note right on cue at this year's spring choir concert. Photo by Melissa Deavers

Male members of the choir wait for direction from their director Aaron Reagle during practice for this year's spring choir concert. Photo by Melissa Deavers

Jasmine Aguilar	Morgan Franklin	Mariah Pol
Amanda Alazaukas	Leslie Fuller	Megan Price
Clarissa Alvarez	TreYonte Gantt	Jessica Propeck
Melissa Anguiano	Jesse Garbali	Andrew Quigg
Crislyn Arcuri	Melissa Garza	Alexis Rae
Richard Arriaza	Ashlee Gast	Danielle Randle El
Nicholas Arroyo	Elizabeth Girouard	Angela Ratican
Joseph Bain	Jacquelyn Givens	Amber Reed
April Baker	Christina Golden	Brittany Reyes
Shauna Ball	Sarah Gonzalez	Amber Riley
Taylor Basch	Kiara Goshay	Raymond Rivera
Rico Batista	Deide Greider	Kelly Robbins
Chassity Bauswell	Raven Gue	Cassandra Rocha
Madison Becker	Eryn Hale	Maricruz Rojas
Stephanie Bedard	Melissa Hale	Risaida Rosado
Jessica Bedford	Desi Handley	Damen Rossborn
Autumn Bement	Elizabeth Harris	Karlin Sanchez
Hedi Bilderback	Sara Hayden	Kelsey Sandnago
Alyssa Black	Lauren Hopper	Elizabeth Saylor
Jenna Black	Kelsey Horton	Albert Shane
Elanor Bloom	Natalie House	Paul Shane
Brittany Bogdan	Starla Howe	Brandie Shell
Ashley Boger	Marisa Hubbard	Elizabeth Simms
Amanda Bogolin	Melissa Hudson	Brandon Surbas
James Bowen	Amanda Hughes	Danielle Sticho
Jorden Breezley	Matthew Hunter	Kyle Smart
Elizabeth Broadie	Lindsey Hutchins	Emily Smith
Jordan Brown	Tarra Jenkins	Sarah Smith
Jodi Burke	Kevin Jennings	Stephanie Smith
Tonya Butala	Jennifer Jett	Jessica Sobocinski
Emily Carpenter	Leanna Jett	Sara Sowers
Grace Casimer	Chanel Johnson	Jessica Spicker
Ashley Chaja	Noppawan Junyand	Lyssa Springman
Erica Chambers	Haley Kado	Melissa Steinburg
Victoria Chavez	Jabria King	Sarah Stevenson
Heather Cheek	Alyssa Kinaga	Anelle Stevenson
Abigail Clark	Alexandra Little	Hunter
Megan Colley	Avery Livingston	Paige Stewart
Jessica Conn	Nathaniel Lowery	Amanda Sulski
Dana Coulter	Samantha Loza	Megan Swick
Desree Craig	Kim Lunin	Carolyn Tackett
Brooklyn Creech	Brianna Maddox	Clarissa Thomas
Kalee Cummins	Alysha Mardis	Ashley Tindle
Kelsey Cummins	Mayra Martinez	Cynthia Trujillo
Shannon Curry	Melissa Martinez	Jessica Tuomi
Mary Daniel	Ben Mathewson	Kayla Turner
John Davis	Sarah Mathewson	Cprimeu Tirihill
Kristina Deleon	Marla Mayfield	Samantha Tyika
Amy Delucro	Megan McFadden	Stephanie Tyrka
Christina Delucro	Emily McFarrah	Stacia Upton
Jasmine Denne	Marissa McQueen	Stacie Yallo
Chris Devenport	Mary Miller	Kathleen VanGilder
Torrey Dixon	Grace Morris	Kadie Van Wormer
Logan Drees	Jacquelyn Moyers	Taylor Vardaman
Roger Driver	Melissa Mula	Ezra Vickrey
Ashley Duda	Shawn Murphy	Dustin Watkins
Jennifer Duxar	Korissa Neace	Hayley Weathers
Amber Dusard	Melissa McNorion	Keshia Webb
Alexandra Elisha	Allison Mesarch	Carissa West
Adair Engel	Katie Mestorovich	Cassandra Wheeler
Kylie Evans	Malory Oetman	Justin Wilkerson
Brittany Evola	Karissa Olson	Andrew Wick
Rachel Fairchild	Stephanie O'Mahoney	DeShawn Willis
Bernadette Fannin	Alyssa Pacheco	Ashley Wilson
Stephanie Farmer	Amanda Pacheco	Hannah Wise
Casey Ferguson	Ashley Paugh	Jawanza Woods
Christina Fink	Matthew Peksenak	Joshua Wright
Kayla Fink	Emily Phillips	Sherman Yancey
Taylor Fleming	Samantha Prio	Sarah Yngst
Whitney Foster	Michelle Plance	Holly Zaragoza
Traci Franklin	Justin Poe	Valerie Zielinski

Senior Corey Gains work on an assignment in his Spanish class. Photo by Katie O'Brien



World Languages teacher David Masty talks to students in his mod 9 French class. Masty also teaches Chinese. Photo by Katie O'Brien



French teacher Andrea Flynn listens carefully as some of her mod nine students speak to her in French. Photo by Katie O'Brien



GRADE Kayla King and senior Stephanie Glick listen to teacher Andrea Flynn speak in French. Photo by Katie O'Brien

New French class created

Tu parles au français? Do you speak French? A new French course was added to the foreign language department.

A class that combined French 3,4,5 and 6 honors was put into the curriculum. This was no ordinary course. It was full of an elite group of French speaking students.

"The students were really cream of the crop. Everyone in the class planned to obtain an Academics Honor diploma and then attend college," French teacher Andrea Flynn said.

This French combination course was an unusual change for the department that worked out well.

"The class was like a family. We had our arguments but we always worked through them. That is why I loved taking French," junior Kayla King stated.

With only 20 students in the class, these peers were given the opportunity to get to know each other.

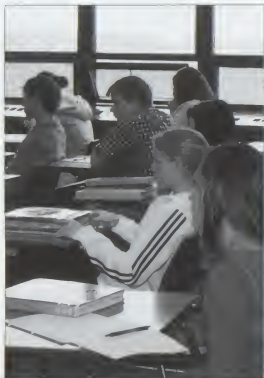
"I like that not as many people took French. That way we could develop a closer bond," senior Erin Strang said.

This class was advanced enough to compose a play entitled "Peter Pan in Paris."

"My favorite aspect about being studying French was learning the language and the culture," Senior Corey Gaines said.

The students and their teacher enjoyed being a part of the French 3,4,5 and 6 honors course.

"I looked forward to coming to the class everyday," Flynn stated. *Story by Ashley Archie*



Students in Becky Fry's ninth mod Spanish class listen as she gives directions for an assignment. *Photo by Katie O'Brien*

Senior Sydney Williams listen to Andrea Flynn talk to her ninth mod French class. *Photo by Katie O'Brien*

Career and Technology teacher receives top state award

When Portage High School students signed up for the Auto Technology Vocational, they had no idea that their course would be taught by who was considered the best career and technical educator in the state of Indiana last year.

On February 12, Mr. Jon "Doc" Soliday, PHS teacher of 29 years, was awarded the Indiana Award for Excellence in Career and Technical Education (CTE).

This is the highest award any CTE teacher can receive and honors their whole career, not just one specific achievement.

"I'm not the best [CTE] teacher in Indiana. There's far better than me," Soliday said.

Soliday began his Portage auto career 29 years ago at a time where the course had no curriculum and the classroom only had a small amount of screwdrivers and hammers for classroom use.

"We worked out of my own toolbox," Soliday said. "I cried because we had nothing."

Now, Soliday and his program are nationally recognized. In

the 2006-2007 school year, their high scholarship testing scores named them national champions by the Universal Technical Institute.

"My class isn't going to be any different. It's still the same kids and the same class," Soliday said.

Soliday is highly respected by his students, the school board, and his fellow teachers.

"He has many ways of explaining things," said Caleb France, one of Soliday's students.

Assistant Principal Mizecko considers him "an exceptional educator" and school board president Terry Hufford "appreciates all [Soliday] does for Portage."

Through all his hard work, Soliday will continue to build and create a strong technical education program in the Portage schools.

"I want this to be the best program in Indiana. Are we there yet? I don't know. But we're good," Soliday said. *Story by Jordan Steiger*



Career and Technology Education teacher Jon "Doc" Soliday prepares himself to give a speech at a February school board meeting this year. Soliday was given the Indiana Award for Excellence in CTE. *Photo by Jordan Steiger*

Seniors Sarah Tucker and Jessica Yauch look at finger prints for an assignment in their Criminal Justice vocational class. *Photo provided*

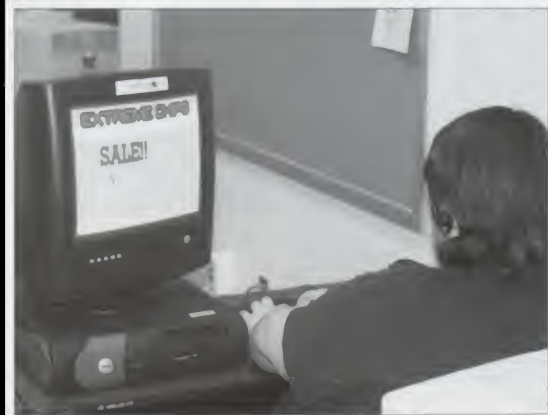




CTE teacher Tom Moodie helps a group of his ninth mod Industrial Mechanics students with a problem. *Photo by Melissa Deavers*



Junior Matthew Pedroza works on a part in his Industrial Mechanics class. *Photo by Melissa Deavers*



Senior Dustin Franz works on an animation project in Mr. Bob Beigh's ninth mod class. *Photo by Melissa Deavers*

A JROTC student talks to Major Johnson and Sgt. Major Altizer at the annual JROTC Ball, held at Woodland Park. Photo by: Katie O'Brien



Students in the JROTC program perform a drill routine at a meet this year. Photo by: Katie O'Brien



This display was set up at the JROTC Ball this year and was the backdrop for the presentation of the awards. Photo by: Katie O'Brien



Members of the JROTC Drill Team practice at PHS. Photo by: Katie O'Brien

Andrea Allen
Sean Alvey
Albert Arnold
Nicholas Ayres
Michael Barnes
Ashley Barton
Chastity Bauswell
Dillon Begudry
Michael Beckham
Kiefer Beightel
Robert Bennett
Amanda Benson
Angel Berg
David Berridge
Michael Berridge
Zachary Bern
Charles Bertoni
Randi Bighears
Ashley Blackick
Andrew Bretzinger
Catherine Brown
Erwin Brown
Calvin Bryant
Jonathan Bumbales
Stacy Butler
Stephanie Call
Nicholas Caniglia
Graham Cardwell
Adreanna Carnell
Raymond Casillas
Christopher Chandler
Vincent Chandler
Daniel Chavez
Jessalyn Child
Dalton Clark
Lyndsi Clay
Tavonna Combs
Leslie Cook
Dylan Coran
Kayla Crews
Tiffany Cross
Beth Croy
Mitchell Croy
Tiffany Croy
Matthew Cunningham
Thomas Damon
Mary Daniel
Tiffany Davies
Jonathan De St Jean
Eric Driver
Roger Driver
Eric Ewing
Wayne Fagan
Ray Ferrer
Christopher Fink
Shaun Finley
Georgeanna Fisher
Jason Follow
Aaron Galaviz
Steven Garcia
Breanna Garza
Daniel Gasaway
Derek Geritzen
Danielle Gibbs
Breasha Gilbert
Benjamin Gobin
Eric Gonzalez
Kenneth Goode
Daria Goodwin
Derrick Graves

Megan Gregory
Tia Hammerstein
Ashlie Handley
Austin Haynes
Ryan Heck
Michael Henry
Nadine Hernandez
Justine Herrera
Jillian Herman
Christopher Hess
Stephan Holland
Michael Hoover
Michael Hord
Amanda Horn
Matthew Hunter
Jonathan Hurst
Franklin Ivey
Kristopher Johnson
Ashley Kazan
Taylor Kibble
Jonathan Kleist
Kyle Kranick
Melissa Kranick
Timothy Kranick
Halle Kuzio
Dylan LaFrance
Jeremy Langman
Megan Layton
Daniel Lenzo
Tonya Lewis
Jordan Linville
Colton Littrell
Racanna Maldonado
James Mancilla
Thomas Manning
Timothy Manning
Andrew Marek
Kelsie McClellan
Jacob McCumber
Ray McCumber
Brittany McQueen
Nikolas Melendez
Cynthia Miller
James Miller
Jeffrey Miller
Stephan Miller
Kerra Mitchell
Brenda Moritz
Benedict Morris
Lussey Newcomb
Peter Newlin
Steven Osting
Christopher Ondo
Keith O'Quinn
Christopher Owens
Francisco Pantoja
Isabel Pantoja
Tayla Patterson
Matthew Peksenak
Isaac Perez
Jacob Petretta
Marissa Pollock
Ryan Pope
Nicole Potts
Shawn Randel
Kyle Reyna
Ryan Riggie
Vaneshia Rivera
John Ruebensam
Heather Robbins
Alyssa Robinson

JROTC says hello to new areas

JROTC received an overhaul! There were new additions to the JROTC areas.

"JROTC had newly renovated classroom and office spaces," Major John Johnston stated.

These renovations were not among the only changes JROTC saw. The department received its very own locker rooms in the new field house. This is definitely a change from previously sharing lockers with the athletic department.

"The new lockers are useful and give us our own place to

change," First Sergeant Jessica Miller said.

The staff and students appreciated the additions.

"The main goal of MCJROTC is to teach students character and leadership," Major Johnston said.

Students who were a part of JROTC stated that there were many reasons why they decided to join. Lance Corporal James Miller made his interest and dedication very clear.

"I joined JROTC to get a taste of what the military would be like," Miller said. *Story by Ashley Archie*



Members of the PHS Drill Team pose for a picture before competing in a fall competition this year. *Photo by: Katie O'Brien*

Megan Robinson
Billy Rodriguez
Cynthia Rodriguez
Jesse Rodriguez
John Ruebensam
Neil Smith
Adriana Saucedo

Jessica Shaffer
Aaron Sharbnow
Elizabeth Sims
Kyle Smart
Andrew Smith
Adam Tschida
Paige Stewart

Brittany Szala
Michael Szymanski
Shelby Taylor
Robert Thorne
Jessica Trunk
Adam Tschida
Tonya Utley

Christopher Vale
Jame Vasquez
John Vasquez
Ezra Vickrey
Kayla Wallace
Tonya Webb
Shane Weber

Christopher Wilkening
Robyn Williamson
Leonna Wilson
Jordan Witten
Zachary Wancy
Sherman Wood
Ryan Yeo

FACS students raise money for California fire victims

Get your FACS straight. For the family and consumer sciences department, money was not an object as teachers Mary Lembck, Melissa Deavers and Kara Miller assisted with the Coins for California Drive.

"The adult roles and responsibilities class held the COINS for California Drive which raised money for the wild fire relief efforts in Southern California," department member Katie Ewoldt explained.

Each ninth module class was asked to donate their loose change to the effort.

The adult roles and responsibilities class assumed responsibility for keeping the drive going.

"The class created and posted flyers and posters, counted coins, kept a tally running and rewarded first and second place classes," Lembck said.

Coins for California was a drive that used the FACS to prove that spare change really can make dollars and a difference.

"We were thrilled that we raised over \$1600 in two weeks!" Lembck exclaimed.

Story by Ashley Archie

Freshman Andrea Hallmen works on cutting up chicken breasts for her tacos in Mary Lembck's mod one foods class. Photo by Melissa Deavers



Washing your hands before cooking is always a good idea, as freshman Travis Pride demonstrates before beginning a project for his foods class. Photo by Melissa Deavers

Junior Arvis Johnson tried to trim the fat off of his chicken breast before cooking it in the skillet. Photo by Melissa Deavers



Freshman Mason Flores begins the process of cook the chicken for his tacos. Photo by Melissa Deavers



Junior Austin Parker and sophomore Giovanni Taylor prepare all of their supplies before beginning to cook. Photo by Melissa Deavers

Students that participated in the Art Show stand on stage for a presentation. Photo provided by Natalie Johnson



Senior Natalie Johnson shows off her art work at this year's art show. Photo provided by Natalie Johnson



A student in one of the many art classes here at PHS works on a sculpture she is making. Photo by Melissa Deavers



Art Dept. awarded \$10,000 energy grant through BP



Freshman Allyssa McDowell shades in a block on her worksheet for her ninth mod art class. Teacher Kara Miller had the students shade in boxes to understand the progression of color. *Photo by Melissa Deavers*



The art department leaped into a new field this year. Students had the opportunity to gain awareness about energy conservation.

After writing essays into BP Petroleum about energy conservation, Paula Wiese and Wanda Rice were awarded a \$10,000 grant.

Wiese decided her grant would support a big project. It was for her ceramics classes to building Zen fountains out of clay. These fountains were not ordinary. They were solar powered!

"The students learned about energy in a creative way," Wiese said.

Along with the teacher's response, the students had a reaction of their own about the Zen fountain project.

"I think it was an awesome idea. The project ties together science and art. By doing this, you learn twice as much and have fun!" exclaims Senior Dillon Albee.

Rice's choice for her project was for her graphic design courses to make energy posters. The students learned about ways to conserve energy in their everyday life while working on graphic designing.

"The posters teach energy conservation ideas and the students learned about poster art and history!" Rice exclaimed.

Both of these projects made a big stride for the art department by providing an entertaining mix of energy education with art. *Story by Ashley Archie*



Brittany Black poses by an exhibit at the art show. All different types of art were displayed at the show. *Photo provided by Natalie Johnson*

Students in an art class use clay to begin a sculpture. There are many different types of art classes to take. *Photo by Melissa Deavers*

Students offer lunchtime entertainment

BOY DO THEY KNOW HOW TO PUT ON A SHOW!

Earlier this year there were three students who participated in putting on a show for the other students in the lunchroom. The students Mary Miller, Sean Egolf and Erica Chambers sang along to Keith Urbans-You'll think of me.

This was a day to never forget. Not only did they sing, but they also showed everyone how to do a great walk. Mary Miller along with Sean Egolf walked together locking their arms together making their way from one end of the isle to the other end.

Mary Miller along with Erica Chambers showed everyone in the lunchroom how to do the catwalk. Making everyone smile and say "aww how cute."

"I thought it was very cool how they just got up and sang in front of everyone. I was very surprised. I would have never thought they would have done that. I looked around at everyone else to see his or her reactions and everyone was shocked, but everyone loved it. Myself along with everyone else thought it was great," said peer tutor Nicole Sutton.

With the students who all participated in the little show that was put on this year they did a good job. Imagine how much more fun they would have if you were a part of being a tutor or even a friend to them.

Story by Veronica Trinidad



Sophomore Shaun Egolf shows off one of his favorite dance moves during his lunch hour. Photo by Katie O'Brien



Special education para Suzanne O'Reilly helps freshman David Ybarra work on an assignment in his ninth mod art class. Many of the students in the special education department take art classes as a creative outlet and excel in them. Photo by Melissa Deavers

Peer tutors change the lives of their students every day

This year at Portage High School, not many students have taken the opportunity to become a peer tutor. We have always had many students signing up to be tutors. The tutors would come into class ready to help the students with their work. Ready to help the students with math, reading, writing, or whatever it may be.

However, many of the teachers had to ask where all of the peer tutors were hiding this year. Some students may think that being a tutor is all about helping a student. Yes, that is true, but it is also a great opportunity to connect with all of the students. To learn more about them, in some cases they may be the one to teach you things.

Being a peer tutor does not mean it is a time to sleep or to talk to your friends, it's not even a class to take to just put off. It is a chance to help someone who needs help.

Coming into class with a smile on your face or going up to one of the students and having a conversation with them will make the students like you even more. Then it will grow to the point that

you and the student have a better connection than before. Coming into class everyday and talking to a student will make them have a better understanding of how you are as a person. Even talking to the students who rarely talk might even start to grow a connection with you.

"I think that being a tutor is something that everyone should do. I mean these students are so fun to get along with. Moreover, they are very smart to. I have been a peer tutor all four years of school here and I love it. Therefore, I just don't understand why people wouldn't want to sign up to be a tutor," said Veronica Trinidad.

This year there seems to be more students and each one of them are all at a different levels. Some need more help than others. But there are just not enough tutors to help all of the students. So where are the tutors? If you are considering on signing up to be a tutor next year then sign up. It will be a great opportunity for you to learn things about the students, and a chance to help someone. *Story by Veronica Trinidad*



First thing everyday the LRE students come into class and go straight to the computer to play a game before they begin class. LRE students Amber Kemp, Mary Miller and Timothy Cawthon take part in participating on a computer game together. Photo by Katie O'Brien

Peer tutor and Junior Lisa Alsbury helps her student on the computer. The peer tutors were required to become more involved with their student outside of class this year. Photo by Katie O'Brien

Classes combines to make new Tourism and Hospitality course in business dept.

In the business department, not all was business as usual this year! A redesigned course was added to the business department. This renewed class was International Business, Hospitality, and Tourism.

The "dual" course, previously taught separately, was reconstructed to form a combination class. Hospitality and Tourism was formerly taught with the other computer classes but this year the course was under new management.

Low enrollment caused the class merger, but the outcome turned out to be beneficial to the two, very different groups of students.

"The students of each class actually had quite different interest. I think it was good for these students to interact and draw from each others varying experiences as we discussed the various topics. It gave them an alternate view of the topic at hand," business department teacher, Joseph Bachan said.

The class took part in activities ranging from Internet researching to marketing projects.

"We all took the class for Mr. Bachan. He's so cool!" members of Bachan's ninth mod class said.

"My favorite aspect about teaching this course was the challenge of working for two different audiences at once and trying to keep them both interested in the subject," Bachan said.

Business took a new spin this year but it was a turn for the best. Story by Ashley Archie



Sophomore Megan Brammen and freshman Nick Etheridge practice their typing skills for Robin Halberstalt's mod nine class. Photo by Melissa Deavers



Senior Jamie Vazquez works on an assignment for his typing class. The business department offers a wide variety of classes from which students may chose. Photo by Melissa Deavers



Sophomores Matthew Demmond and Mario Franco work with a computer program that helps them improve their typing skills. Photo by Melissa Deavers



Students in a Strength Training class play a game of football on the field outside. *Photo by: Melissa Deavers*



A student in the Strength Training class goes for a pass while playing football. *Photo by: Melissa Deavers*

PE department welcomes fieldhouse



Getting fit for a new year, the physical education department received an entirely new field house.

The field house was literally built from the ground up. It replaced the empty space between the east and west building, assuming the title "PHS Central."

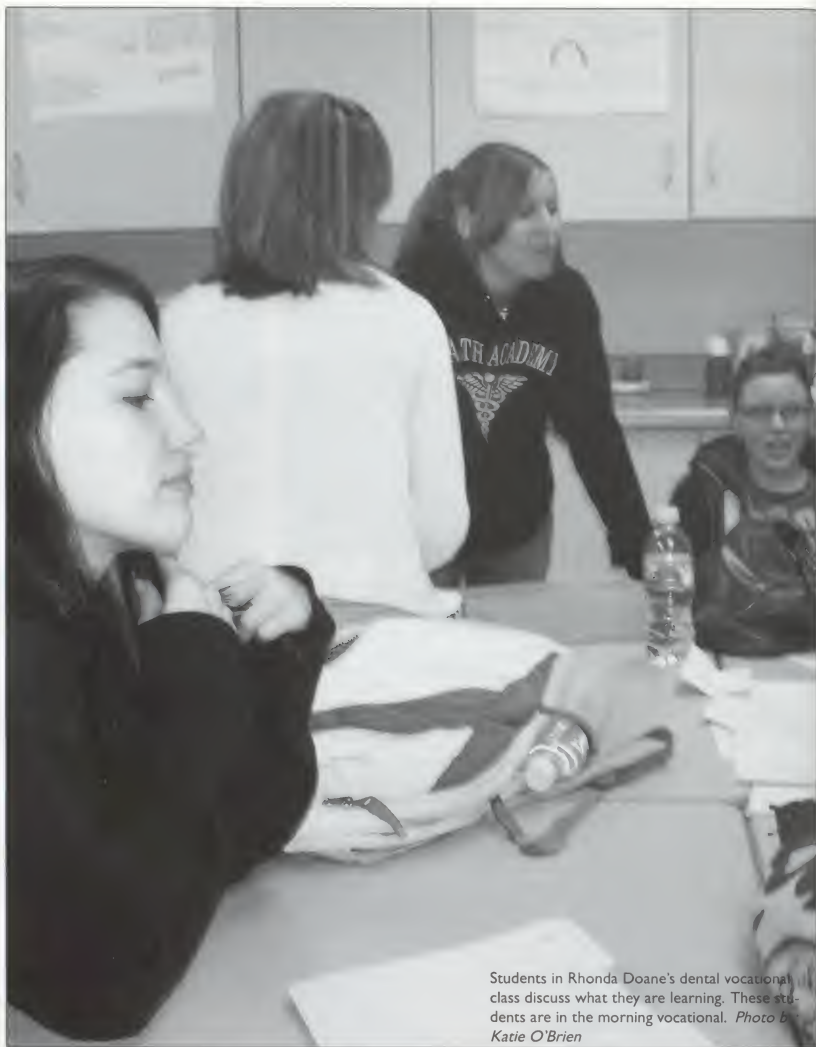
"The field house includes three new basketball courts and features a new fitness and weight room that is the state of the art," department member Mike Lipinski said.

With the traditional schedule put back into order, students who had a P.E. course had the opportunity to spend more time on the new equipment. *Story by Ashley Archie*

Students in a PE class start their work out by running up and down the stairs of the bleachers. *Photo by: Liz Broadie*



Photo by: Melissa Deavers



Students in Rhonda Doane's dental vocational class discuss what they are learning. These students are in the morning vocational. *Photo by Katie O'Brien*



The marching band performs for the fans at half time of one of the home football games this year. Photo by Katie O'Brien



Members of the choraliers practice a routine in the auditorium. Photo by Melissa Deavers



Junior Kayla King and sophomore Iromya Williams-Gary have fun during a BPA meeting.

Photo provided by Robin Halberstadt

“Being in the organizations at Portage High School have let me stay involved in my school and make so many new friends. I am glad that I got involved because it will create a memory that will last forever.”

-Amanda Alasauskas, 10

we like to
MOVE IT

Seniors AJ O'Reilly and Lindsay Shay get ready to pep up the crowd at this year's Homecoming Pep Rally by running in front of the crowd and banging on a drum. Photo by Katie O'Brien



A representative from Toys for Tots talks to students and faculty about their donations to the program during this year's Secret Pal Social. Participating teachers were asked to bring in a toy to donate. Photo by Amy Muhammad



Dillon Albee	Amanda Klenk
Craig Alley	Kaylan Knutsen
Joey Bain	Valerie Lafata
Eleanor Bloom	Will Lewis
Ashley Brinnehl	Abi Llerena
Emily Carpenter	Raeanna Maldonado
Jessalyn Child	Megan Morris
Abby Clark	Amy Muhammad
Adrianna Coco	AJ O'Reilly
Jack Collier	Marcus O'Reilly
Sarah Dienes	Keenan Ruzga
Seiche Dogan	Lindsay Shay
Evan Dominguez	Mike Sikora
Aaron Duncil	Bianca Smith
Andrea Falk	Arielle Stevenson
Whitney Foster	Amanda Sulski
Andrew Golden	Carolyn Tackett
Tina Golden	Clarissa Thomas
Katie Govert	Zachary Vaughan
Taylor Grashel	Nick Whitney
Kelly Grish	Sydney Williams
Melissa Hale	Sherman Yancey
Kaylyn Hart	Kylee Yeomans
Kayte Hawkins	

Senior Andrew Golden shows off some dance moves at this year's Senior Citizens' Ball. Student Council put on the dance for local seniors in November. Photo by AJ O'Reilly

Student Council sponsors new dance

For most students, the homecoming dance is an informal get-together full of dancing and fun. This year, the Student Council decided to take the dance in a different direction by turning it into a semi-formal affair.

"We decided on having the dance be formal this year, we figured more people would show up if they got to dress up," Amy Muhammad, senior, said.

The dance was held in the commons the Saturday after Homecoming Week. Student Council decided to allow 500 couples to attend the new dance.

"I really liked the fact that the homecoming dance was

formal this year. I loved being able to get all dressed up for it," Valerie Zielinski, junior, said.

Student Council continued with many of their regular projects this year, including the Senior Citizens' Ball, which was held in November, and the Secret Pal Social.

"I decorated Mr. Mundi's room during Secret Pal. We added lights and garland. He was so happy when he saw it the next day," Kaitlin Winowitch, junior, said.

Teachers brought in a variety of toys that were donated to Toys for Tots after the social.

Story by Sam Jones



Students and teachers listen to a representative from Toys for Tots speak about the program at this year's Secret Pal Social. *Photo by Amy Muhammad*

Junior Sherman Yancey dances with a member of the community at the Senior Citizen Ball in November. Student Council was so impressed with the turnout that they hosted a second dance in February. *Photo by AJ O'Reilly*



Honor Society has busy year, plans many projects

This year no matter what was going on you could almost guarantee that the National Honor Society had a say in it.

NHS was very busy this year putting together events such as the Blood Drive, Dancers Against Cancer, the Sadie Hawkins Dance, Toiletry Drive and making care packages for the Coast Guard. They also organized a group to walk in the March of Dimes to benefit sick babies.

"I love NHS not only because of the people in it, but for the gratification you get back for helping out the community," senior Natalie Johnson said.

To be in Portage High School's National Honor Society, students had to have maintained a 3.3 GPA, and had to be involved in some school or community activities and leadership positions. The students also had to have three recommendations from their teachers.

Even though it is necessary to fulfill quite a bit of criteria, there were 51 students involved in NHS this year.

They met twice a month on Wednesdays after school in the LGI room to review and plan their current projects and begin preparations for future endeavors. *Story by Liz Broadie*

This year's National Honor Society poses for pictures after this year's induction ceremony, which was held in the West Auditorium. *Photo by Katie O'Brien*



Senior Courtney Glos makes a speech to parents and students at this year's NHS induction ceremony. The organization welcomed 17 new members in the fall. *Photo by Natalie Johnson*

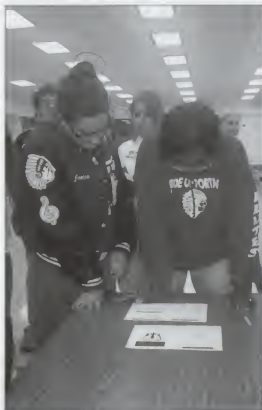
Junior Shane Hall watches as a worker from the American Red Cross reads him to donate blood. NHS hosted the Blood Drive as one of their many service projects throughout the year. *Photo by Natalie Johnson*





Senior Natalie Johnson accepts her certificate from assistant principal Tom Sanidas at this year's NHS Induction Ceremony. Photo provided by Natalie Johnson

Dillon Albee	Ryan Morris
Leslie Bailey	Amy Muhammad
Lindsay Burbee	Krista Nebel
Steffane Christian	Katie Nestorovich
Ariangela Davis	A.J. O'Reilly
Taylor Fleming	Nathaniel Pall
Whitney Foster	Darcy Richardson
Andrea Falk	Heather Robinson
Corey Gains	Joselyn Santos
Stephanie Gerbick	Tasha Sever
Courtney Glos	Lindsay Shay
Andrew Golden	Michele Stowers
Taylor Grashel	Jessica Sobocinski
Taylor Halko	Amanda Sulski
Sarah Hamang	Carolyn Tackett
Jessica Harris	Katie Thomason
Jennifer Hyde	Emily Tolliver
Ashleigh Janiga	Nick Vaughan
Melinda Jarnecke	Chris Wilkening
Natalie Johnson	Fawn Wright
Whitney Johnson	Rachel Ybarra
Kristen Knuth	Kevin Zbikowski
Kaylan Knutsen	Elizabeth Zuilkowski
Ann-Marie McGee	Natalie Zuilkowski
Angela Mills	Corrie Campfield
Melinda Misch	



Juniors Jessica Sobocinski and Ariangela Davis check for their names on the list of new NHS inductees at practice for the induction ceremony. Photo by Amy Muhammad

Members of the Marching Indians Color Guard stand at attention, ready to perform, at one of this year's home football games. Photo by Katie O'Brien



Junior drum major Heather Robinson and senior drum major Stephanie Gerbick stand at attention on the football field before performing their show, *Puzzles*, for the crowd at a football game. Photo by Katie O'Brien



Members of this year's color guard perform part of their routine for their show entitled "*Puzzles*." This year, 12 students participated in color guard. Photo by Katie O'Brien



Matt Acosta	Ambrosia Maddox
Amanda Ashford	Ann McGee
Matt Bell	Sydney Miller
Ryan Bell	Alex Mishke
Mallory Bridges	Korissa Neace
Alex Bowen	Stephanie O'Mahoney
Lindsay Burbee	Tasha Pepper
Angelo Canter	Issac Perez
Grace Casimer	Adam Petyo
Liane Cesare	Ryan Pope
Shannon Corcoran	Nick Radtke
Amber Cox	Breanna Rajca
Ari Davis	Heather Robinson
Anna Deammon	Josie Santos
Elizabeth DeLacruz	Richard Sneed
Courtney Dewese	Nathan Sommers
Dustin Edwards	Sara Sowers
Chelsea Exl	Ashley Stanley
Tristan Ferguson	John St. Jean
Corey Gaines	Stephanie Talley
Kirsten Gerber	Tim Talley
Stephanie Gerbick	Kyle Timmerman
Gail Goodan	Rubin Thomas
Tyler Green	Ryan Thompson
Valerie Gregorash	Emily Toliver
Cody Grezelak	Lee Toney
Melinda Jarnecke	Kathleen VanGilder
Aramis Johnson	Andrew Vild
Valerie Keehn	Bradley Welbourne
Allen Kozik	Kayla Wilken
Zack Laskovich	Danny Wilkinson
Nicole Layba	Morgan Williams
Nathan Livingston	Ian Young

Marching band goes to regional competition

The duties of a marching band are simple. Marching in parades, playing music and showing spirit at football games, and competing for either a participation, bronze, silver, or gold award. However, this year's band showed that they could do more than just the above tasks.

"Marching band is not just a club or activity, it's a sport. To participate in one, it is imperative that you have the up-most passion for the art of music and movement," Rubin Thomas, junior, said.

This year's marching band consisted of 86 instrumentalists and 12 color guard members. The show they preformed this year was called Puzzles. As the show progressed, the band

moved into different puzzle pieces breaking apart and moving together.

Just like any other sport, marching band takes hard work and commitment. Over the summer months, the band held two camps in which they worked on parade routines and their halftime show.

This year, the band was able to compete in ISSMA competitions and made it all the way to regionals. This is a task that some members thought to be impossible, as the news of their achievement came as a surprise to some members.

Overall, the members had a great season and a great time. *Story by Samantha Jones*



The marching band prepares to exit the field after performing this year's halftime show *Puzzles*. The band offered halftime and gametime music to the Portage fans. *Photo by Katie O'Brien*



The wind section, an essential part of marching band, is playing their music and keeping the crowd entertained at the homecoming game. *Photo by Katie O'Brien*

Performing in the marching band takes a lot of concentration, as the members show here. Not only do they have to remember their music and flag routines, but they must memorize their positions on the field as well. *Photo by Katie O'Brien*

Choraliers perform like pros, sing their hearts out

Choraliers has been a significant part of the music department here at Portage High School for years and years. They participate in a number of concerts and festivals each year. Choraliers participate each year in the ISSMA Vocal Jazz Competition in LaPorte. They also participate in the Music in the Parks Show Choir Competition at the end of the year.

After the choir festival, the group goes to 6 flags for the rest of the day. Last year, the group received an "excellent" rating and the "esprit de corps" award. Choraliers also perform as a large ensemble in the solo and ensemble contest each year.

There are 18 members in choraliers. They meet as a class during the day, and receive a grade and course credit.

The ladies and gentlemen of choraliers aren't only talented singers, their dancers as well. Choraliers isn't just like any other type of choir. They incorporate singing and dancing into their performances, which makes an exciting show!

Being in choraliers allows students to be unique and express themselves in a fun way! *Story by Sam Jones*

Brittany Bogdan	Angela Ratigan
Emily Carpenter	Jessica Sobocinski
Grace Sasimer	Sara Sowers
Adair Engel	Carolyn Tackett
Melissa Hale	Clarissa Thomas
Nessa Junyanid	Kayla Turner
Kim Lunn	Kathleen VanGilder
Mayra Martinez	Hannah Wise
Mariah Pol	



The 61st Edition of the Choraliers pose for a picture before performing at a competition earlier this year. The group received a first division rating at the ISSMA state contest in February. *Photo provided by Melissa Hale*

Senior Melissa Hale and junior Jessica Sobocinski perform their routine at a choir concert earlier this year. *Photo provided by Melissa Hale*





Senior Melissa Hale and junior Carolyn Tackett hold up their plaque, which was given to the Choraliers to award them for their achievements at state competition. *Photo provided by Melissa Hale*



The choraliers perform a routine at the Secret Pal Social. The group performs at the annual function each year. *Photo by Amy Muhammad*



Senior Melissa Hale carefully applies makeup in the green room of the auditorium before performing at this year's Choralier's concert. *Photo provided by Melissa Hale*



Senior Miles Tolliver shows off his best hip-hop moves while performing a routine at the "Dancers Against Cancer" benefit.
Photo by Susan Kelly-Johnson



Many of the students participating in the event wore clever costumes, as this group demonstrates. *Photo by Susan Kelly-Johnson*



Seniors Natalie Johnson, Jen Hyde and Steffane Christian watch the other groups perform their routines. Hyde cannot help but smile. *Photo by Susan Kelly-Johnson*



Senior organizes benefit, 'Dancers Against Cancer'

Senior Jen Hyde has had a love for dancing since she was a little girl. This year, she was able to put that talent to good use.

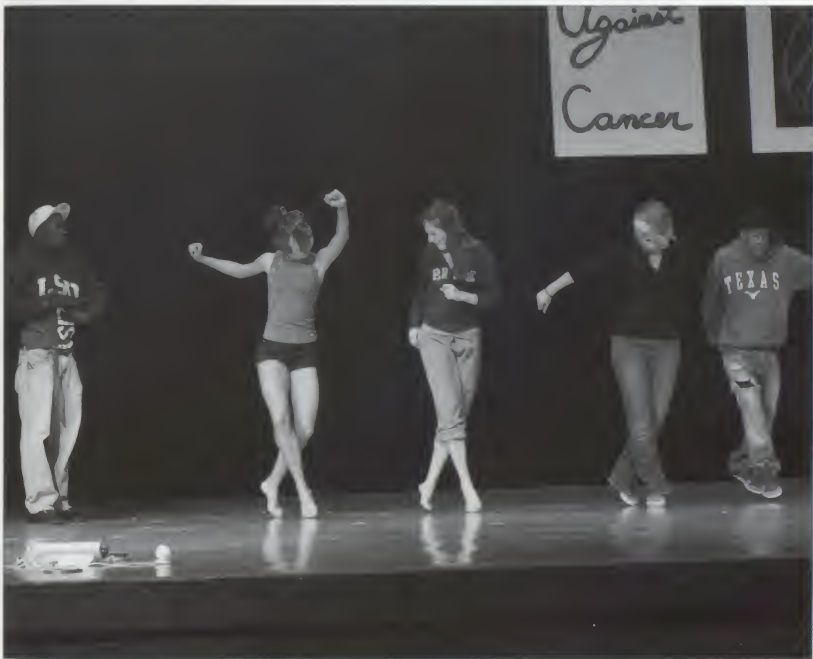
Dancers gathered from all over Portage to participate in "Dancers Against Cancer," a fundraiser organized by Hyde. Money brought

in by the event was then donated to help those who are suffering from cancer.

Several students decided to come up with a solo routine, while others formed groups. The events was held in the East Auditorium.

Story by Melissa Deavers

Senior Jen Hyde looks out into the crowd at the Dancers Against Cancer event before introducing the next performer. *Photo by Susan Kelly-Johnson*



Some of the groups showed up early to practice, and organizer Jen Hyde couldn't help but join in the fun that another group was having during their practice. *Photo by Susan Kelly-Johnson*

HOSA members take time for more than medical studies

They say high school is supposed to be the best years of your life. While most students are using these years to have fun and goof around, others are using it as preparation for their future. At Portage High School career and vocational classes are offered to help students get a jump start on what they plan on doing as a profession. One of the options students have to help with this is the Health Academy, which is also a part of Health Occupation Students of America.

HOSA gives students the opportunity to explore health professions through job shadowing, clinicals and field trips.

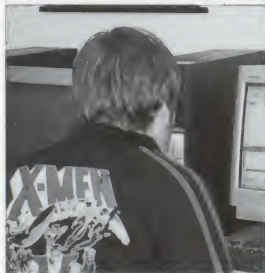
"My favorite thing about being in the Healthy Academy is going to Scottsdale for my clinicals. I was allowed to take blood pressure, and perform tests for expecting mothers," junior Emily Ann Smith said.

In the Health Academy classes, students are taught about the anatomy and physiology of the body, and medical terms to prepare them for college.

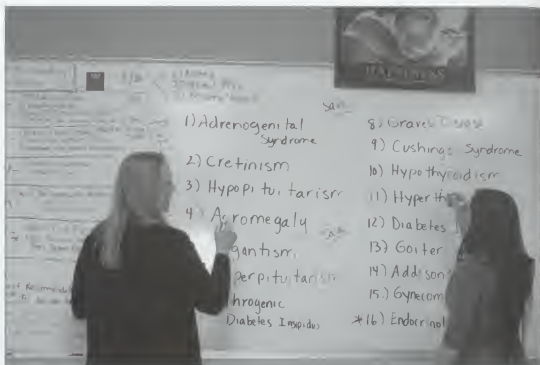
"I like learning medical terms and going on clinicals, everyone was really nice when I went to Northshore," junior Andrew Hulst said.

HOSA also has done many volunteer activities as well, one being collecting food items for the soldiers in Iraq. They also went to Indianapolis during the fall and spring for leadership conferences, to compete and join other schools that have the HOSA program.

In the fall of 2007, as a reward for going to the leadership conference, the health academy classes got to go to Indy to watch the Pacers game. Not only did they get great seats for the game, but they were allowed to shoot some hoops on the Pacers court before the game as well. *Story by Sam Jones*



Junior Andrew Hulst works diligently on a paper for his medical terminology class, taught by Lynn Wilson. *Photo by Katie O'Brien*



HOSA sponsor Lynn Wilson helps a student study for a medical terminology test on the front board. Many of the students who are enrolled in the medical classes also participate in HOSA. *Photo by Katie O'Brien*





Junior Tanya Ferguson studies for a test in her ninth mod medical terminology class. Photo by Katie O'Brien

Wendy Alvarez	Breanna Manning
Kayla Ball	Zachary Messina
Amber Blejski	Tiffany Montes
Rikki Cavanaugh	Ashley Morris
Charles Cousins, Jr.	Shawn Murphy
Allison Cruse	Megan Perez
Bittania Dahlgren	Ayanna Peteet
Amanda DelValle	Amanda Rapo
Aleda Douglas	Victoria Rivera
Sarah Evans	Samantha Rodriguez
Amanda Evett	Cynthia Santiago
Tonya Ferguson	Emily Smith
Alyssa Gamez	Stephanie Smith
Josh Gensel	Steph Sowers
Paige Hoggard	Heather Spence
Kelsey Horton	Sarah Stevenson
Nicole Hudson	Sam Stover
Andrew Hulse	Nicole Sykora
Alexis Jackson	Ashley Thompson
Brooke Janik	Kesha Walker
Sam Jones	Andrea Wattle
Tiffany Keil	Robin Wheeler
Alee Kolbus	Kaila Whitten
Steve Kovachevich	Jacob Wilkinson
Valerie Lafata	Jessica Wright
Nathaniel Lowery	Kayla Wright



Junior Sarah Evans receives help from teacher Lynn Wilson on a paper for her medical terminology class. Photo by Katie O'Brien

Junior Sean Murphy receives a checkup from junior Stephanie Smith in their ninth mod medical terminology class. Photo by Katie O'Brien

Art teacher and club sponsor Wanda Rice helps a student start her bowl on the pottery wheel. Photo by Melissa Deavers



Members of the Art Club work on their bowls for the Empty Bowls Project. The event was held to raise money for the local food pantry and raise awareness for the growing homeless population in the United States. Photo by Melissa Deavers



A student works on her bowl for the Empty Bowls Project. Photo by Melissa Deavers

Students use Art Club to be creative, have fun

No matter if it is a painting, molding, or drawing a piece of art has more to it than meets the eye. Oneself can express what one's emotion is through their work only if the person has taken their time to interpret and admire their own piece. This is what art club is about: Gathering together to socialize and create wonderful works of different and unique types of art.

Whether interested in making an occupation with art or

just joining for plain fun, any student is welcomed to join.

"It's seriously so much fun, sometimes I think I just go to hang out with my friends," senior Christina said.

For a little over 30 years now, art club has been going on. Through the year, the art club has been a huge part in decorating the hallways throughout Portage High.

Towards the end of the year the students have an art show

and auction. If the students painting or drawing are up to scale with the requirements, they can put their art up for auction.

Many students come and visit art club, maybe to just catch up on their own artwork for class, but the regulars are there for a purpose.

The students whole truly have a passion and love for art stay for the club. *Story by Liz Broadie*



An Art Club member adds more water to her clay so she can better shape it into a bowl. *Photo by Melissa Deavers*

Sophomore Bethany Olsen works on her bowl. Students and staff were invited to attend the luncheon, where they would receive a ceramic bowl and a bowl of soup. *Photo by Melissa Deavers*

BPA travels all the way to national competition in Las Vegas, Nevada

They live in America, they're into the business world, and they sure are professional. They are the members of this year's outstanding Business Professionals of America.

The BPA club is a group of students who come together to become strong leaders in their schools and communities. BPA goes to many leadership conferences throughout the year. In January, they went to the District Leadership conference, and following that they qualified for the BPA State Leadership conference held in Indianapolis.

The group's biggest accomplishment, however, was the trip they made to national competition.

"It was absolutely amazing," adviser Robin Halberstalt said. "We had a great time."

Competing at these conferences is not as easy as it may seem. Members must join the ranks of other outstanding students and entrepreneurs to take tests over their knowledge of the business world. Just a couple of the categories include management and finances. *Story by Sam Jones*



BPA members wait for their turn at a competition this year. The group had the opportunity to send a member to national competition in Las Vegas. *Photo provided by Robin Halberstalt*



BPA member Kyle Adkins holds up the sign he made with fellow members when he ran for Indiana's BPA president. *Photo provided*



Participants in this year's Business Professionals of America pose for a picture in front of the banner they were given at district competition. *Photo by Alec Back*



Members of the Science Olympiad team pose for a picture after competing in one of this year's meets. Photo by Susan Kelly-Johnson



Senior Natalie Johnson laughs after receiving her medal at one of this year's competitions. Photo by Susan Kelly-Johnson

Science Olympiad knows how to win, have fun



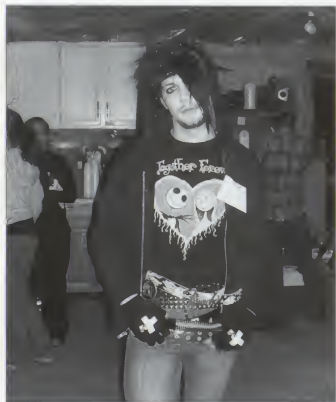
Two Science Olympiad members are shocked after winning at one of this year's meets. Photo by Susan Kelly-Johnson

Science Olympiad adviser Heather Castle signs in her team at a competition this year. Photo by Susan Kelly-Johnson

Sophomore Mea Buiha makes a face after having a bad frame during Campus Life's Bowl-A-Thon. Photo provided by Rachel Jordan



Sophomores Seiche Dogan and Rachel Jordan take a break from bowling to take pictures at the Bowl-A-Thon. Photo provided by Rachel Jordan



Senior Eliza Mills dresses up like an emo-rocker for the Campus Life Fashion Show. Photo by Alec Back

Members of Campus Life dress up for the Fashion Show. The object of the event was to dress the opposite of your personality. Photo by Alec Back





Senior Kyle Catlin and sophomore Karaline Cartagena pose for a picture together during Campus Life's Bowl-A-Thon. Photo provided by Rachel Jordan

Campus Life does it all and more

For those students who wanted to spice up their Monday night, they went to Campus Life.

Along with the off-the-wall activities they normally do, they decided to kick it up a notch this year, and they definitely succeeded. One major thing that Campus Life participated in was a 50-foot ice-cream sundae. Can't handle that? Try adding on another 50 feet of nachos.

The purpose of Campus Life is to provide a positive environment where a student can voice his or her opinion and always feel welcome.

For approximately 25 years now Portage Campus Life has been around. Students from mainly PHS attend, but there are some stragglers from all the surrounding towns.

Other activities that the group participated in this year included hosting a fashion show and participating in homecoming activities. Story by Liz Braadie



Sophomores Tracy Franklin and Seiche Dogan take a moment to celebrate during the Bowl-A-Thon. Photo provided by Rachel Jordan

"One who knows two languages is worth two people."

On May 1, 2008 PHS celebrated the 20th annual Foreign Language Honor Society banquet. Outstanding students were honored in Chinese, Latin, German, French, and Spanish. In order to be accepted into FLHS each student must have three consecutive A's in their foreign language class.

The Department of World Languages here at Portage High School strives for all students to develop a life-long appreciation for world languages, as well as learn about different cultures, and becoming more aware of their own culture.

The banquet started with guest speakers Sarah Hamang and Cecilia Rodriguez, followed by an induction ceremony of the students, which was announced by Mr. David Masty. Each student recognized in a language received a certificate and medal from their teachers.

"Being in foreign language here at the high school has definitely given me a more global and open-minded perspective of the world around me. I've gotten to learn about many different cultures and have had more opportunities than I ever could have imagined," Sarah Hamang, senior, said.



Two foreign language students take a break from studying to talk. Students who had received three consecutive A's in their foreign language were invited to join the group for their May 1 ceremony. Photo by Katie O'Brien



French and Chinese teacher David Masty instructs his students on a lesson during class. Photo by Katie O'Brien

Students work in groups to finish an assignment in their foreign language class. Most students who are involved in FLHS work very diligently in their classes to become members of this elite group. Photo by Katie O'Brien





Senior Natalie Johnson performs a scene from the musical *Grease*. Johnson is president of the PHS Thespians. Photo by Melissa Deavers



Senior Amalia Shanks-Meile waits patiently while another cast member makes sure her hair is perfect for the opening night production of *Our Town*. Photo by Natalie Johnson

Thespians do more than just strive for spotlight



Most people think of thespians as a group of actors and actresses who jump from stage to stage, longing for the coveted spotlight. However, the 56th installment of the PHS Thespians has broken this traditional mold.

The troupe, which met at various times through the year as needed, participated in a variety of activities besides the fall play and spring musical.

In addition to participating in this year's Homecoming festivities by walking in the parade, hosting a banquet during Halloween and planning for Outstanding Young Man and Junior Miss, the group had a costume sale in October, which, according to adviser Joe Stevens, was very successful.

"We were able to get rid of some of the unused costumes," Stevens said.

A variety of items were up for sale, including dresses, pants, shirts and purses. Story by Liz Broadie

Cast members of the play *Our Town* fix their hair and practice some of their lines before going on stage. All of the thespians participated in the stage productions, sometimes behind the scenes. Photo by Natalie Johnson

Junior Amber Cox works on a poster to promote the Multicultural Club's PeaceWeek. The group handed out green ribbons to students and faculty. *Photo by Natasha Hale*



Members of the Multicultural Club laugh and joke as they ride the bus to Merrillville High School for a convention. *Photo by Natasha Hale*



Multicultural Club adviser Heidi West-Thibideau listens as her students make plans for this year's PeaceWeek. West-Thibideau and Kathy Kubiak resurrected the club this year to help promote peace and diversity. *Photo by Natasha Hale*

Liz Breakfield	Jaimie Kasper
Brandon Comerford	Annie Lachowicz
Shannon Corcoran	Melissa Martinez
Bri Cordon	Ann-Marie McGee
Amber Cox	Jacob Parrish
Eduardo Diaz	Tracey Perrine
Daphne Espinosa	Mark Pickering
Amanda Fengya	Karya Sadchikova
Krya Fuller	Ryan Thompson
Tasha Hale	Terry Townshend
Kayte Hawkins	Markisha Walter
Aramis Johnson	DeAnna Woodley
Arvis Johnson	Kadie Van Wormer



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Multicultural Club: For the love of culture!

Culture is what makes us who we are, and how we live. Multicultural Club, which was resurrected this year by Kathy Kubiak and Heidi Thibideau, explores all sorts of cultures. One activity that was sponsored by Multicultural club this year was Peace Week, which was right before the holiday break. They made posters promoting peace, tolerance and awareness, as well as gave out green ribbons for the student body to wear.

For Black History month, they put one fact per day about African Americans on the announcements in the morning. On Martin Luther King Day, the group went to Merrillville High School for a presentation.

They discussed issues like genocide in Darfur, interracial dating, Martin Luther King's message in schools and stereotypes.

In Multicultural Club, the students involved are able to have all different kinds of races come together for one purpose, to learn and accept each others culture. Here at PHS diversity is a major issue, whether it be skin color, religious beliefs, or just someone's way of thinking.

It's a good thing being able to have a club here at PHS that can bring all different kinds of people together. Where they can accept and learn from each other. *Story by Sam Jones*



Students listen to speakers at Merrillville High School. The Multicultural Club went to MHS to meet with other schools and discuss diversity in today's society. *Photo by Natasha Hale*

2008 ACES

Each year Portage High School honors the top 30 students of the graduating class based on their GPA's. This year is the Thirteenth Annual ACES program. Each student chooses a teacher who has had the greatest influence in their life, and is invited to the banquet.

The students receive a Certificate of Honor and an engraved bronze medallion that was worn at the June graduation ceremony.

Story by Sam Jones



Samuel Bloom and Thomas McKeown



Devin Boylan and Jeff Smeriyak



Tae Braner and Kathy Kotyuk



Emily Brennan and Robert Parker



Grace Coleman and Paula Wiese



Elizabeth Feliciano and Vanessa George



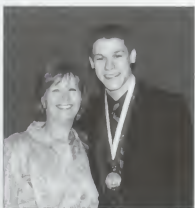
Renee Frechette and Candace Crockett



Stephanie Gerbick and Kathleen Brannen



Courtney Glos and Myron Fessler
(Award accepted by Gerry Fessler)



Andrew Golden and Carrie Sanidas



Taylor Halko and Stephen Bartos



Mariah Hamang and William Schott



Sarah Hamang and Dave Mastly



Ashleigh Janiga and Marston Mundt



Natalie Johnson and Gerri Kotyuk



Kristen Knuth and Amy Burke



Nicole Krooswyk and Bryan Lochmondy



Angela Mills and Joe Stevens



Melinda Misch and Ruth Drake



Ryan Morris and John Kappes



Tiffany Nichols and Cynthia Stojic



Nathaniel Pall and Darryl Schuitz



Katrina Brinker and Holly Percfield



Zachary Perry and Rebecca Swerdon



Lindsay Shay and Dina Levenda



Stephanie Snow and Andrea Flynn



Timothy Standerski and Tami Kepshire



Katie Thomason and Greg Mundt



Emily Tolliver and James Downes



Kevin Zbikowski and William Bodnar



Alisha Zick and Michelle Goebel

Senior Aaron Krabbenhoef works on a story for the *Pow Wow*. Krabbenhoef mostly wrote movie reviews. Photo by Melissa Deavers



Senior Tricia Bailey laughs at story with fellow senior AJ O'Reilly while taking a break during class. Bailey was a reporter on this year's staff. Photo by Melissa Deavers



The girls of the *PowWow* gather for a group picture during class. Featured, from bottom center counterclockwise, are sophomore Jordan Steiger, senior Whitney Foster, junior Brittany Langston, senior Steffane Christian, senior Danielle Prusynski, senior Stacey Martinez, senior Amy Muhammad and senior Michele Stowers. Photo by Melissa Deavers



Senior Mike Hazy tries to escape from the publications office after junior Mike Sikora stacked yearbook boxes in front of the door. Photo by Mike Sikora

Pow Wow staff redesigns newspaper

This year's new and revised newspaper had people saying Pow Wow.

The staff had a lot of work to do revising last year's magazine style into the current newspaper style. Along with their new advisor, Melissa Deavers, they have added new segments, such as the "Bomb-Diggity Back Page."

The staff also wanted to redesign the paper to give it a

new feel. With a new set of fonts and a new attitude, the paper was a hit around the school.

According to Editor-in-Chief Steffane Christian, the Pow Wow took two to three weeks to produce. The first week was spent writing stories and taking pictures, while the second week was spent placing the stories and pictures on the pages and designing them.

According to Deavers, the first few weeks were the most difficult.

"The staff wanted to restart the newspaper from scratch. On top of that, they wanted to distribute our first issue by the Friday of homecoming," Deavers said. "I was so proud of them when they met that goal."

Story by Liz Broadie



Alec Back	Stacey Martinez
Patricia Bailey	Amy Muhammad
Steffane Christian	AJ O'Reilly
Chad Crile	Jason Ogle
Nicholas Dvorscak	CJ Peters
Whitney Foster	Danielle Prusynski
Michael Hazy	Christopher Santos
Brandon Kalch	Michael Sikora
Aaron Krabbenhoef	Jordan Steiger
Brittany Langston	Michele Stowers



Senior Chad Crile works diligently on a story for the sports section of the Pow Wow. Photo by Melissa Deavers

Sophomore Jordan Steiger and senior Amy Muhammad show off a sign that was taken from Rt. 6 during one of the staff's many deadline nights. Photo by Mike Hazy

Pow Wow staff hosts this year's 'Dance-A-Thon'

This year's Dance-A-Thon was hosted by the *Pow Wow* staff to help raise money for a needy family in Portage.

Senior AJ O'Reilly and junior Mike Sikora were the brains behind the event. Applications were handed out during lunch hours. Approximately 12 teams signed up.

Participants were required to dance for as long as they could. The staff defined dancing as the constant movement of the arms and legs. The first team was out within a half an hour, but the remaining teams held on longer.

The final team danced until 11:30 p.m. and was rewarded with a trophy and a gift certificate to Buffalo Wild Wings.

Story by Melissa Deavers

Sophomore John Lehman starts up a dance train in the commons during this year's Dance-A-Thon. *Photo by Melissa Deavers*



Junior Ian Young, a member of the team "Fat Kids 4 Fessler" struts his stuff on the dance floor. *Photo by Melissa Deavers*

Sophomore Jesse Garibaldi gives a high five to his dance partner during the competition. *Photo by Melissa Deavers*





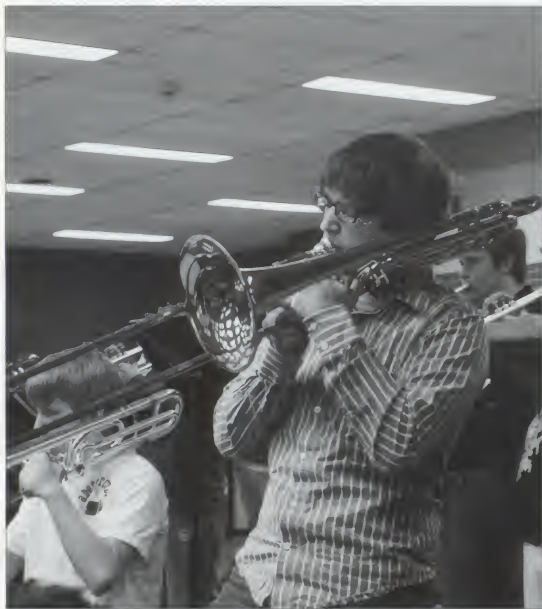
Junior Kaitlin Winowitch smiles as she keeps a positive attitude during the Dance-A-Thon. The competition lasted over six hours. *Photo by Melissa Deavers*



Sophomore Cristina Gonzalez shows off the beads she brought for her and her partner. *Photo by Melissa Deavers*



Senior Steve Smolinski plays the bongo drums during a performance in the commons on a Friday morning. Photo by Melissa Deavers



Sophomore Kelly Robinson plays his heart out on his trombone during one of the "Jazz in the Morning" concerts, hosted by the PHS Jazz Band. Photo by Melissa Deavers

PHS Jazz Band continues to play in commons

When you walked into to the commons early Friday morning and heard the music fill your ears, did you ask yourself "Am I going crazy, or is that the Jazz Band playing?"

Last year, the Jazz Band tried something new with performing in the commons before school on Fridays.

"I like to do fun things!" jazz band director Robert Symer said. He also mentioned that by showcasing the band, the entire student body would be able to just sit down, enjoy themselves,

and relax.

Portage High School's Jazz Band has been around since the 1960's. Besides playing in the commons Jazz Band also participates in various concerts and multiple contests. Along with the new music wing this year, they have gained a new Jazz Band director, Mr. Timmerman.

You must be personally asked by a director, or audition for a spot in order to join Jazz Band. Story by Liz Broadie



Junior Josh Djuric performs a solo during a jazz piece. The Jazz Band performed for students and faculty in the commons on selected Fridays throughout the year. Photo by Melissa Deavers



Freshman Simone Ingram listens as adviser Linda Parker explains the voting process for this year's Student Council officer elections. The job of the student court during the elections was to make sure everything ran smoothly and according to the group's constitution. *Photo by Melissa Deavers*



Order in the PHS Student Court

Court was in session at this year's Student Court.

According to adviser Linda Parker, this year the court had it easy by not having to deny any organization's wishes.

Student Court has been around for decades. Their responsibilities are to overlook any actions that the Student Council takes, and make sure they abide by the constitution. With the Student Council being so motivated this year, they had their fair share of work.

The members of the court have to maintain a 2.0 GPA. Along with that, they have to follow the code of ethics stated in the school handbook. *Story by Lit Broadie*



Student Court adviser Linda Parker informs the group of some common errors often made during elections time. Student Council election time is the busiest time of year for the student court. *Photo by Melissa Deavers*

Senior class president Will Lewis explains how student council plans on running the elections. *Photo by Melissa Deavers*

Natural Helpers holds one retreat



Portage High School teachers and coaches are invited to attend the Natural Helpers retreat. *Photo by Sabrina Scroggin*



Senior Colleen Morean shows off her musical skills to her group. *Photo by Sabrina Scroggin*



Retreat leaders walk with members of their groups during some free time. *Photo by Sabrina Scroggin*



Several "natural helpers" wait in line to sign a poster during the retreat. *Photo by Sabrina Scroggin*



Natural Helpers retreat leaders take a break from "leading" and pose for a quick, but fun, photo. Photo by Sabrina Scroggin



Students on the retreat take some time to relax together. Photo by Sabrina Scroggin



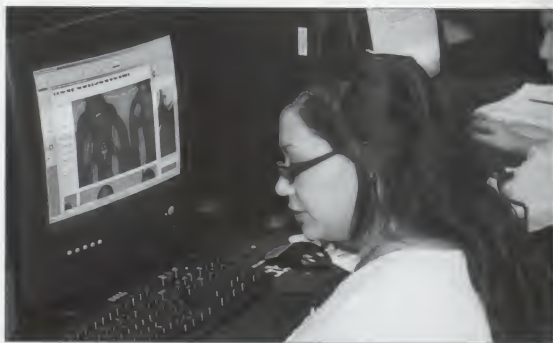
Rain didn't prevent these "natural helpers" from enjoying their time on the retreat. Photo by Sabrina Scroggin



The 2008 Legend Staff: Brittany Coates, Liz Broadie, Ashley Archie, Brittany Johnson, Barbara Hess, Katie O'Brien, and Sam Jones. Not pictured: Veronica Trinidad



Senior Ashley Archie, the academics section editor, writes one of her stories for the yearbook. Photo by Melissa Deavers



Senior Katie O'Brien works on placing pages on the choir spread for the yearbook. Photo by Melissa Deavers

Legend staff is small, but productive

Being a part of the publications department here at PHS gives students the opportunity to express themselves through writing, photography and design. No matter in what area each student excelled, everyone worked together to produce this year's volume of the *Legend*.

The staff decided on "Transitions" as the theme this year because of all the changes made to the school and even the

students.

Even though there were only seven members on staff this year, with a new yearbook advisor Miss Melissa Deavers, the girls worked extremely hard to produce an amazing yearbook.

"I love the fact that I'll be remembered as the yearbook nerd who encountered near death experiences to get the perfect picture," Katie O'Brien, senior, said. *Story by Sam Jones*



Junior Brittany Coates, the yearbook's Editor-in-Chief, proofreads a page before sending it out to the plant to be published. *Photo by Melissa Deavers*

Junior Shelby Milner watches the direction of the ball after teeing off at Robinhurst Golf Course. Milner played for the varsity team this year. Photo by Melissa Deavers





Senior Lisa Samplawski, who signed to play for Loyola during the 2008-2009 season, readies herself to take a shot against players from Hobart. Photo by AJ O'Reilly



Members of the varsity soccer team dribble the ball down the field at a game this year. The team ended their season with a 9-6-2 record. Photo by AJ O'Reilly



Senior Vance Johnston makes the extra point after Portage scores a touchdown at a game this year. Photo by Brittany Coates

“The sports season was great. I love all of the things we accomplished. Your teammates, they become your brothers.”

Caleb Serrano, 12

MOVING
forward

The Portage defensive team stops offensive players from Highland just beyond the line of scrimmage. The game was a shutout, as the Indians beat Highland 28-0.
Photo by Katie O'Brien



Members of the football team discuss the game as they wait for their turns on the field at the homecoming game against Crown Point. Unfortunately, the Indians lost to the Bulldogs 0-27.
Photo by Katie O'Brien



Senior Sam Fazekas places himself to receive a pass against Highland High School. The Indians met Highland at home this year. *Photo by Brittany Coates*



Portage football players try to hold back members of Highland's team at their Aug. 24 game at home. The Indians beat Highland 28-0. Photo by Katie O'Brien



PHS students gather at the front of the bleachers on the football field at a home game to root on the team at the first home game of the season. "Superfanning" became a favorite activity at all sporting events this year. Photo by Katie O'Brien



Cheerleaders are lifted up to help evoke spirit in the spectators at a football game this year by holding up signs and enticing the crowd to chant "Go Big Red!" Photo by Katie O'Brien

Varsity Football

Andean	16-14 W	Away
Highland	28-0 W	Home
Lake Central	10-14 L	Away
Merrillville	14-21 L	Away
Crown Point	0-27 L	Home
Chesterton	7-14 L	Home
Michigan City	27-13 W	Away
Valparaiso	28-25 W	Home
LaPorte	27-20 W	Away
Sectional (Valpo)	25-28 L	Home

Season ends in close call against Valpo

When the football team showed up to their summer camp, the players saw more than just the new freshmen coming in to practice. They also caught a glimpse of their new coach, Mark Peterson, and the set of new assistant coaches he brought in to help him coach the varsity, junior varsity and freshman teams.

Peterson led the team through a tough, but successful season. The teams they defeated this year were LaPorte, Michigan City, Andean, and Highland. Highland was a complete shutout, with a score of 28-0.

"It is a disappointment not having a winning season my senior year but the team I played on, we're like family and I couldn't see myself playing this game with anyone else," senior Billy Pearman said. "I feel that our team had a lot more talent than our record

showed," Pearman said.

Many of the players were impressed with the new style and techniques that the new coaching staff brought in with them this year.

"The coach did implement a new style to play this year, which took us off to a slow start, but we did learn," Pearman said.

Portage said goodbye last year to former head coach Craig Buzea, who accepted a job at Michigan City High School as their head coach and physical education teacher.

"I really enjoyed coaching the Portage High School football team, they were a great group of gentlemen," Buzea said.

The team ended its season after a close loss to Valparaiso High School in the sectional game. The final score of the game was 28-25.

Story by Brittany Johnson



Sophomore David Spurrier checks behind him as he gets ready to run the ball down the field for a touchdown. Photo by Katie O'Brien

Varsity soccer player Samantha Rodriguez does a fast move at the team's Tribe United game this year. New Assistant Athletic Director Jeff Smith instituted Tribe United to bring more fans to various sporting events at PHS. Photo by AJ O'Reilly



Sophomore Tara Ellis, a member of the varsity team, runs to steal the ball away from the opposing team. The girls ended with a 11-4-1 season. Photo by AJ O'Reilly



Varsity Row 1: Hailey Holland, Fawn Wright, Holly Tharp, Kelly Stanley, Alyssa Pacheco **Row 2:** Gloria Hernandez, Sam Rodriguez, Elizabeth Ramirez, Sam Rodriguez, Bri Cordon, Morgyn Graber **Row 3:** Natalie Griffin, Carly Bermes, Alicia Vega, Ali Cruse, Tara Ellis, Tasha Sever, Coach Amanda Isakson



Junior Varsity Row 1: Nicole Leveritt, Kristen Ashby, Andrea Hallmen, Ashley Hallmen, Kendra Becker, Crystal Keilman **Row 2:** Megan Beach, Mea Buja, Lania Solite, Michelle Plance, Abby Clark, Michelle Figueroa, Coach Jacklyn Anderson

Lady Indians pull out winning season, despite difficulties

This year's girl's soccer team did extremely well this year, even though the team had many injuries to deal with throughout the year. Another aspect the team battled with was that not that many girls were on the varsity team this year.

"Sometimes less is best," sophomore Mea Bujna, soccer player of 9 years, said. "Although

waking up on Saturdays were not my favorite thing, I got to spend time with my friends so it made it worth it".

Even though the girls had many challenges this year, the team was still able to form a winning season.

"The girls soccer team was like a storm on the field," assistant coach Aaron Rhame said.

The girls did go to sectionals, but were knocked out after their first game with a score of 1-2 again Michigan City. However, with a 10-4-1 season, the girls didn't give many other teams too much of a chance to get in a win.

A peak point in the season was when the girls had an amazing game against LaPorte with a score of 9-0. *Story by Brittany Johnson*



A varsity soccer player fends off an opposing player at a home game this year. Photo by AJ O'Reilly



Senior varsity player Elizabeth Ramirez works her way around an opponent from Chesterton. The girls beat the Trojans 1-0 at home. Photo by AJ O'Reilly

Varsity Soccer

Penn	1-2 L	Away
South Bend St. Joe	3-4 L	Away
Highland	3-0 W	Home
Crown Point	3-2 W	Home
Munster	1-0 W	Home
Lake Central	2-2 W	Away
Michigan City	4-0 W	Away
Andean	2-0 W	Home
LaPorte	9-0 W	Home
Trinity-South Bend	4-0 W	Home
Chesterton	1-0 W	Home
West Lafayette	0-2 L	Home
Valparaiso	2-1 W	Away
Mishawaka Marian	1-1 T	Away
Hobart	3-0 W	Away
Merrillville	1-2 L	Away

Senior Kiyoshi Kobayashi and a teammate fight for the ball against a member of the opposing team. Both PHS students are members of the varsity team. *Photo by AJ O'Reilly*



Varsity soccer player Jeff Melton, junior, maneuvers the ball around a player from Valparaiso High School. *Photo by AJ O'Reilly*



Senior Kiyoshi Kobayashi and junior Matt Halfman celebrate a goal at this year's game against Valparaiso. The Indians won the game 2-0. *Photo by AJ O'Reilly*

Soccer team finishes season with winning record



Varsity Row 1: Roberto Costa, Brendon Swindle, Kiyoshi Kobayashi, Kyle Adkins, Matt Golarz, Doug Coffman, Tyler Tampier, Sean Parpart. Row 2: Arthur Sifstrom, Joey Higgins, Andy Austin, Jeff Melton, Nick Cardenas, Jon Cox. Row 3: Ass. Coach AJ Monroe, Carlos Gutierrez, Luis Murillo, Walter Castrejon, Emilio Calvillo, Matt Halfman, Corey Tulecz, Coach Todd Strom



Junior Varsity Row 1: Artzell Hathorne Jr., Derek Jackson, Kyle Adkins, Sean Curbow, Ricardo Silva, Matt Sternberg. Row 2: Ben Dvorscak, Ross Falk, Vince Chandler, Sean Parpart, Emilio Calvillo, Christian Cherry, Brendon Swindle, Sterling Williamson. Row 3: Coach AJ Monroe, Dylan Anderson, Alex Linville, Walter Castrejon, Tyler Gorden, Bruno Rodrigues, Brandon Carter, Dean Anderson, Luis Murillo, Luna Hugo, Coach Todd Strom

Varsity Soccer

Munster	2-1 L	Home
SB St. Joe	3-0 L	Home
SB Adams	1-0 W	Away
Crown Point	4-1 W	Away
Andean	1-1 T	Away
Lake Central	3-0 L	Home
Lafayette Jeff	1-1 T	Away
Michigan City	2-0 W	Home
Hobart	6-3 W	Away
LaPorte	2-1 W	Away
East Chicago	6-0 W	Away
Chesterton	0-1 L	Away
Highland	1-2 L	Away
Valparaiso	2-0 W	Home
Culver	3-0 W	Away
Merrillville	1-0 W	Home
Sectional (Valpo)	1-1 W	Wheeler

This year, the soccer team nearly dominated the DAC with a record of 10-5-2.

All of the scores were close this year, but Portage managed a win the majority of the games. After averaging out the scores there were more wins than losses, which is always a good thing.

The boys' best win of the season was against East Chicago with a score of 6-0.

The boys did travel to Wheeler this year for sectionals, but got knocked out the first round.

They tied up the game, but, because of a 2-4 lower DAC record, we did not advance.

"My favorite part about soccer is getting to be with my friends that I have been playing this sport with for four years," senior Kiyoshi Kobayashi said.

The team not only impressed themselves, but their coaching staff as well.

"Our boys soccer team had a great amount of character in them," varsity head coach Todd Strom said. *Story by Brittany Johnson*



A line of varsity soccer players dribble the ball down the field in an attempt to score against rival high school Valparaiso. The team had a winning season, with a record of 10-5-2. Photo by AJ O'Reilly

The cheerleaders do their best to motivate the crowd at a football game this year after Portage scores a touchdown. Photo by Katie O'Brien



The cheerleaders often amaze the crowd with their cheers and "stunts," as seen in this photo. Photo by Katie O'Brien



Injuries cannot stop a cheerleader from doing her job of keeping the spirit high at sporting events. One of the cheerleaders had injured her knee, but was still able to participate. Photo by Katie O'Brien



Varsity and Junior Varsity Cheerleaders



The varsity cheerleaders coerce the crowd into chanting "Go Big Red!" at a football game this year. Photo by Katie O'Brien

Portage cheerleaders pump up the crowd

When attending a home football game, the Portage crowd could probably be heard for miles. That was thanks to the cheerleaders that pumped up the crowd with their "death-defying" stunts and catchy cheers.

The group was seen at every football and basketball game this year. Little do most students know, however, the cheerleaders often attend other sporting events as well, such as basketball and soccer. Story by Andrea Falk



Possibly one of the more popular routines at the games is when the cheerleaders perform a lift, as shown here. Photo by Katie O'Brien

At the golf match against Valparaiso this year, junior varsity players Nessa Junyaniid, sophomore, and Ashton Whitley, senior, hand a tee to varsity player Alex Simmons, junior, before she tees off. The Indians lost the match to Valpo by only six strokes. *Photo by Melissa Deavers*



Varsity player Shelby Milner, junior, chooses the club she will use to tee off at the Valparaiso-Portage match. The girls golf team played and practiced at Robinhurst Golf Course in Portage and called that location their "home." *Photo by Melissa Deavers*



Junior Lauren Wighamman practices her swing at Robinhurst Golf Course in Portage before teeing off. *Photo by Melissa Deavers*



Varsity golfer Alex Simmons, junior, places her tee in the ground at this year's regular season meet against Valparaiso.



Members of the junior varsity golf team warm up and take in some advice from JV coach Ashley McCune at their meet against Valparaiso in September. The team met Valpo again for their sectional match and lost with a score of 430.



Girls Golf Row 1: Ashton Whitley, Liddy Ziulkowski, Lauren Wigham, Lauren Scott, Nessa Junyanid, Megan Harris, Katelyn Janiga Row 2: Coach Ashley McCune, Shelby Milner, Clarissa Blazek, Sarah Dienes, Alex Simmons, Carolyn Tackett, Coach Connie Cole

Girls Golf

Valparaiso Invite	444 - 17th	Aberdeen
Munster	199-215 L	Way
Lake Central Invite	419 - 4th	Longwood
Kankakee Valley Invite	432 - 9th	Sandy Pines
Rensselaer Central	391 - 9th	Curtis Creek
Plymouth Invite	405 - 11th	Way
DAC Invite	424 - 6th	The Brassie
Boone Grove/Wheelers	207-241 W	Way
Crown Point	183-201 L	Home
Michigan City	214-253 W	MC Municipal
LaPorte	206-227 L	Beechwood
Chesteron	189-216 L	Home
Merrillville	208-249 W	Home
Lake Central	181-207 L	Longwood
LaPorte Invite	423 - 8th	Beechwood
Wheeler/Lowell	197, 221, 223 W	Home
Valparaiso	201-207 L	Home
Sectional (Valpo)	430 L	Valpo CC

Girls golf had tough season, gained experience

This year the girls golf team placed fourth in one of their Lake Central meets. The girls almost had an equaled out amount of wins and losses. They did go to sectionals, but unfortunately the first team they were paled up against was Valparaiso. They were a hard team to beat this year, and, unfortunately, they knocked Portage out of sectionals.

"I think this year the team was a lot closer, kind of like a sister-sister bonding. We worked hard and had some good laughs during practices," sophomore Nessa Junyanid said.

Being a golfer comes with a lot of challenges, one of them being having to beat the hot sun at the beginning of the season.

"Sometimes it was really hard to focus when the sun was beating on you for a couple hours but it was all worth it," Junyanid said.

Maybe next year the girls can work on getting team visors. Until then, their hard work and dedication to the sport has paid off for many.

"As far as myself, I think I've improved a lot from last year and learned to appreciate the sport more," Junyanid said.

The coaches can vouch for the hard work the girls put into this season as well.

"I had a lot of fun with the girls this season and have seen progress," assistant coach Ashley McCune said. *Story by Brittany Johnson*



Freshman Sarah Dienes wasted no time getting her athletic career at Portage High School started. Dienes, who made the varsity team her first year at PHS, led the girls golf team in many of their matches. Photo by Melissa Deavers

Senior AJ O'Reilly warms up for a match against Andean High School at the end of the season. The boys beat the 59'ers 4-1. Photo by Alec Back



Boys Tennis Row 1: Peter Lofland, Nathan Sommers, Tim Talley, David Zack, Kyle Tampier, Jeff Craig Row 2: Nick Arroyo, Micah Farley, Ryan Thompson, Parth Patel, Kevin Waite, AJ O'Reilly Row 3: Julian Vazquez, Scott Reynolds, Tim Gehrels, Josh Gensel, Matt Kawiecki, Jackson Zyla, Coach David Lakin

Tennis team uses tough season as a learning experience

This year's tennis was not all about winning. It was more about having fun as a team.

"We did not have the best record, but I did have fun during the season since I was pretty much friends with everyone on the team," sophomore Ryan Thompson said.

Outside of practicing for their meets, they went out to eat, which was said to be a whole

lot of fun.

"One main thing I tried teaching the boys was the technique of hitting the ball low to high and to really just have fun with things," head coach Dave Lakin said.

Excitement came for the team when they played Andean, whom we beat with a score of 4-1. Unfortunately, the season ended there for

the boys, as they lost their sectional game.

To help themselves next season and to keep in shape throughout the year, the boys started "hitting sessions" that allowed them to practice in the field house after the season was over. Many of the team members attended these sessions and found them to be helpful. *Story by Brittany Johnson*



Senior AJ O'Reilly returns a serve from a member of Andean's tennis team. The boys finished with a 1-13 season. *Photo by Alec Back*



Senior AJ O'Reilly readies himself to return the ball at this season's game against Andean. The boys spend the post-season at hitting practice to strengthen themselves for next year. *Photo by Alec Back*

Boys Tennis

Hobart	0-5 L	Away
Griffith	2-3 L	Away
Lowell	2-3 L	Home
Chesterton	0-5 L	Away
Valparaiso	0-5 L	Home
LaPorte	0-5 L	Away
Wheeler	0-5 L	Home
Michigan City	0-5 L	Away
Lake Central	0-5 L	Home
South Bend- St. Joe	0-5 L	Away
Crown Point	0-5 L	Away
Merrillville	1-4 L	Home
Kankakee Valley	1-4 L	Home
Andean	4-1 W	Away

PHS varsity cross country runner Melinda Misch, senior, comes across the finish line at an invitational this year. The girls team was able to run all the way to semi-state, but finished one place short of continuing on to state. Photo provided by Chuck Hemiburg



Row 1: Jake Sullivan, Brandon Coppinger, Matt Walters, Alex Quick, Ken Longfellow, Enie Balerini, Ben Hutchins Row 2: Josh Bugarin, Kyle Eastman, Nathaniel Pall, Brian Kim, Tivon Waddell, Kyle Kremke, Alex Young Row 3: Pierre Pirtle, Alex Hutchins, AJ Barnes, Ethan Steele, Asst. Coach Mike Zonder, Coach Tom Erickson Girls team photo not provided



Brian Kim, junior, and Josh Bugarin, freshman, run neck-and-neck during an invitational this year. The boys team prepared for this season by attending running camps during the summer months. Photo provided by Tom Erickson

CC teams have stellar season; girls make it all the way to semi-state

For senior Pierre Pirtle, cross-country is all about catching the person in front him.

Both of this year's cross-country teams kept to Pirtle's philosophy and showed strong performances throughout the season at all of their meets.

The girls had a stellar season, making it all the way to semi-state. Unfortunately, their post-season road ended there, as the team finished seventh, ending their road to the Indiana state finals.

The Portage girl's record best is Melinda

Misch with a finishing time of 6:10.7. Another amazing runner, Tiffany Calaug, finished with a run time of 6:13.4.

The boys finished strong at sectionals, placing sixth, but were unable to qualify for regional competition. At regionals, Mark Fischer

finished with the fastest time from Portage at 5:21.7.

Both the boys and the girl's head coaches, Tom Erickson and Chuck Hemiburg, both said "we have a remarkable, hard working group this year". *Story by Brittany Johnson*

Boys Cross Country

Penn	13th	Away
Lake Central	46-17 L	Home
Harrison	17th	Away
Valpo & LaPorte	49-15 L	Home
Carmel Invitational	4th	Away
Michigan City	42-15 L	Away
New Prairie Invite	22nd	Away
Chesterton	28-28 W	Away
Culver Invitational	23rd	Away
DAC Meet	8th	Away



Cross country runner Nathaniel Pail, senior, team flies past a runner from Avon High School at the Carmel Invitational this year. The boys team finished 4th at this meet. Photo provided by Tom Erikson

Girls Cross Country

Gavit Invitational	3rd	Away
Lake Central	15-48 L	Home
Harrison	4th	Away
Valpo	22-35 L	Home
LaPorte	20-39 L	Home
Carmel Invitational	2nd	Away
Michigan City	38-22 W	Away
New Prairie Invite	17th	Away
Chesterton	28-31 L	Away
Merrillville	39-22 W	Away
Culver Invitational	16th	Away
DAC Meet	3rd	Away
Sectional	2nd	Away
Regional	3rd	Away
Semi State	7th	Away



PHS varsity runner Ben Hutchins works to catch up to runners on opposing teams at the LaPorte Invitational this year. The boys finished eighth at this year's DAC meet at the end of the season. Photo provided by Tom Erikson

A member of the PHS varsity team dives for the ball, and almost returns it over the net, at this year's game against Chesterton. The girls unfortunately lost the matches against the Trojans. Photo by Mike Sikora



Varsity Row 1: Kayla Wright, Alyssa Mayerik, Kari Nugent, Amanda Rapo, Jordan Steiger Row 2: Coach Jenny Kramer, Holly Percifield, Jessica Bruno, Danielle Bryan, Ashley Thompson, Amanda Leimbach, Coach Jessi Fox



Junior Varsity Row 1: Breanne Harvey, Carissa West, Britni Novina, Jessica McElfresh, Megan Brammer, Heather Watson Row 2: Stephanie Oetman, Sara Feehan, Tiffany Hughes, Colleen Kuczwar, Courtney Byrd, Mallory Stowers, Coach Sylvia Kramer



Freshman Row 1: Morgan Franklin, Kylie Evans, Michelle Shafer, Alicia Ciesielski Row 2: Kristy Evans, Megan Hammons, Taylor Vardaman, Brittany Doll, Breanne Lahart Row 3: Coach Matt Scheuer, Eleanor Bloom, Jessica Someson, Colleen Kuczwar, Christina Golden, Coach Linda Scheuer, Team Manager Jawanza Woods

Volleyball team has tough season

Despite the loss of several senior players and injuries at the beginning, the volleyball team worked hard and had a good season.

"Everyone got along really well and were still all really good friends," sophomore Danielle Bryan said.

Although the girls did not have their best stats from this year's volleyball team, they did win matches against Michigan City, Manchester, Hobart, Morton, and Boone Grove, as well as walk away from the Logansport Tournament with two wins.

As the season came to a close, the girls met

up with Merrillville in their gymnasium to compete in the sectional game. Unfortunately, the Pirates won the match, but the girls still had a fun season and were able to learn a lot, as well as tone their skills for next year's season. *Story by Brittany Johnson*



A PHS varsity player sets the ball to be spiked over the net at a home game this year against Chesterton. *Photo by Mike Sikora*



Senior Holly Percifield saves the ball from going out of bounds as a teammate prepares herself to send it back over the net. *Photo by Mike Sikora*

Volleyball

Andean	L	Home
Hobart	W	Home
Morton	W	Home
Boone Grove	W	Away
Chesterton	L	Away
Valparaiso	L	Home
LaPorte	L	Away
Logansport Tourney	2 W, 2 L	Away
Lake Central	L	Away
Michigan City	W	Home
Crown Point	L	Away
Munster	L	Home
Merrillville	L	Home
Highland	L	Away
Chesterton	L	Home
Valparaiso	L	Away
Lowell	L	Away
LaPorte	L	Home
Lake Central	L	Home
Michigan City	L	Away
Crown Point	L	Home
Merrillville	L	Away
Wheeler	L	Home
Sectional	L	Away



Members of the PHS varsity team gather during a time out in the game to discuss their next moves. Many of the girls will agree that teamwork and trust played a big role in their win this year. *Photo by Mike Sikora*

On a fast break, Vance Johnston, senior, looks down the court while keeping the fast pace of the game. Photo by AJ O'Reilly



Boys Basketball

Gavit	54-47 W	Home
Highland	47-45 W	Away
Michigan City	59-51 L	Home
Hobart	61-51 W	Home
Valparaiso	48-44 (OT) W	Away
LaPorte	71-57 W	Home
Chesterton	73-50 L	Away
Crown Point	82-33 L	Home
Lake Central	63-51 L	Away
Merrillville	59-60 L	Away
Valparaiso	48-38 L	Home
Boone Grove	46-45 W	Away
Chesterton	71-48 L	Home
LaPorte	79-67 L	Away
Wheeler	56-54 W	Away
Lake Central	65-52 L	Home
Michigan City	82-67 L	Away
Kankakee Valley	72-70 L	Home
Crown Point	69-47 L	Away
Merrillville	65-44 L	Home
Hobart, (Sectional)	74-60 (OT) L	Away



To avoid getting stuck in a trap against the half-court line and the side line, Albert Evans, senior, looks to pass the ball. Photo by AJ O'Reilly



Varsity Row 1: Vance Johnston, Jon Buchanan, Myles Mendoza, Ryan Cherry, Austin Orlich, Tyler Lewers, Josh Pradziad. Row 2: Coach Rick Snodgrass, Clark Mussman, Sam Gonzalez, DJ Anderson, Aaron Cieselski, Albert Evans, Billy Doll, Asst. Coach Josh Long



Junior Varsity Demonte Dinkins, Eric Lee, Damonte Lowery, Myles Mendoza, Donte Nelson, Steve Perry, Shane Russell, Keenan Ruzga, Dominique Walton, Tommy Webber. Coached by Cory McKim



Freshmen Dylan Anderson, Allen Barrett, Scott Cairns, Tony Checky, Christian Cherry, Zack Daview, Vincent Fischer, Mason Flores, Zach Huston, Jaquel Jenkins, Nathan Johnston, Lawrence Jones, Jeff Kolbus, Joey Laczowski, Miguel Negroni, Tristan Pearman, Nathan Raman, Dimas Reyna, James Wilkins, KeAndre Witcher, Roy Woodard Jr. Coached by Mike Kramer, Mike Liesch and Tim Kunstek

Boys' team, hits the boards with new coach, new attitude

The future of the Portage High School Boy's Basketball team, before the beginning of the 2007-2008 season, was a blank canvas. With the addition of a new coach from southern Indiana, Rick Snodgrass began the transformation.

"In the South, basketball is played as more of a fundamental game, while in the North it is more of a physical game. I still believe that basketball is a skilled sport and that fundamentals are the key to success," Snodgrass said. Change was eminent and only time would tell how the players reacted.

"His energy brought enthusiasm to the team and it made us want to play more," junior Aaron Cieselski said.

The program seemingly turned full circle as the boys had a great start, winning five of their first six games. "We were excited for a new coach because he knew how to win. His attitude about playing was really good and we all adapted his winning mentality. He wanted us to play hard and I think he definitely turned around the program," senior Sam Gonzalez said.

As the coaches and the players were adapting to each other, so was Portage High School. The boy's escalating desire to take back what they deserved from the other rival schools instigated a growing increase in school spirit. Superfans flocked to the games and the boys were on not only an athletic induced endorphin high, but were also pumped from the increasing support of fellow classmates.

"Students helped a lot. With more people at the games, we were pumped to play. It doesn't help a team when no students are there," Cieselski said.

Even with the high hopes of the new season, obstacles were still present.

"We had many injuries this year that caused us to have different line-ups during the season," Snodgrass said.

The boys worked hard to overcome these obstacles and put in many hours of hard work, sweat, and trips to Kris Woods, the athletic trainer.

"The last time we had all played together was freshman year, so we were a little rusty. But towards the middle and end of the season our teamwork really came together and we had good team chemistry," senior DJ Anderson said.

With a brand new start to the program, the boys' basketball team surely has started the process of rebuilding. The varsity team finished at 7-14 with a heartbreaking loss at sectionals. The junior varsity team ended with a record, opposite of the varsity team, at 13-7. Freshman finished 24-14.

"We'll do well next year. A lot of the sophomores this year got to have playing time in varsity so they already have some experience. Basketball is a fast game and we're well conditioned so we'll be able to keep up with the other DAC teams," junior Tyler Lewers explained.

One of the most exciting games all season was against Valparaiso. Coming in with a determined mindset and a hunger for victory, the boys pushed themselves and gave Valpo a run for their money. In overtime, Portage scored the last vital shots to put them in the lead and the team walked away from the game with not only huge smiles, but a victory of 48-44.

"I will always remember my senior players from my first year at Portage High School. They did everything I asked of them and they represented Portage in a positive manner," coach said. Coach Snodgrass, as well as the senior boys of 2008 will always remember their first and last season together as, "intriguing," senior Albert Evans said.

Story by Andrea Falk



Junior Tyler Lewers attempts to block the ball as a player from the opposing team tries to pass at a home game this year. Photo by AJ O'Reilly

Senior Lisa Samplawski prepares to pass the ball to teammate senior Gloria Hernandez while other teammates block the Merrillville players to keep the ball on their side of the court. Photo by AJ O'Reilly



Varsity Row 1: Kayla Criswell, Bri Wischman, Tiffany Keil, Taylor Haraminac
Row 2: Tara Ellis, Tori Bliss, Hannah Pajor, Gloria Hernandez, Lisa Samplawski
Coached by Kristen Peterson and Marian Pack



Junior Varsity Julissa Blackmon, Tori Bliss, Alicia Ciesielski, JaBria Ezell, Brooke Gardner, Taylor Haraminac, Kylie Ingersoll, Breanne LaHart, Sabrina Lattanzi, Brittanie Warren, Brianne Wischman Coached by Amanda Isakson



Freshmen Tori Bliss, Alicia Ciesielski, Sarah Dienes, Kylie Evans, Kylie Ingersoll, Kristin Kalch, Breanne LaHart, Sabrina Lattanzi, Ashley Smith, Arielle Stevenson, Jawanza Woods, Mercedes Zambran Coached by Kacey Kornacki

Lady Indians thrive despite many injuries

Ballin' is what this year's ladies basketball team did. Varsity won 13 of their 19 games played and junior varsity won 5.

"I loved playing on varsity, it was a great experience. It's not going to be the same next year without Brittany and Lisa. We are all going to miss them a lot," sophomore Bre Wischman said.

The girls' sectionals were held against Merrillville. Although they lost, it was a close score of 57-46.

"Although we had many injuries this year,

that shows our ladies aggression. I believe that all the girls are going to go far," coach Kristen Peterson said.

Everyday on the announcements Lisa Samplawski's name was heard by the entire student body, which obviously means that she did an outstanding job this year. In fact, she did such an outstanding job, Loyola University invited her to sign with them to play basketball in college. Samplawski signed with them during the first semester. *Story by Brittany Johnson*



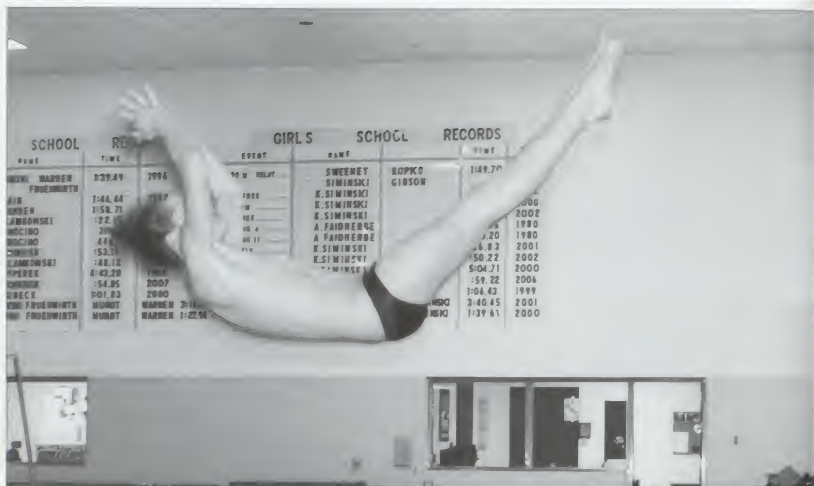
Junior Tiffany Keil goes up for a lay up while two girls attempt to keep her from getting the points that will put the ladies ahead of the other team by nine points. Photo by: A.J. O'Reilly



Junior Hannah Pajor tries to maneuver the ball around an opposing player to get it to a teammate for an opportunity to score. Photo by: A.J. O'Reilly

Girls Basketball

Gary Lew Wallace	77-16 W	Away
Crown Point	48-39 W	Away
Andean	52-22 W	Away
Merrillville	48-46 W	Home
Hobart	50-33 W	Home
Michigan City	71-63 L	Away
Valparaiso	54-35 L	Home
LaPorte	49-39 W	Away
Chesterton	58-47 W	Home
Crown Point	65-35 W	Home
Lake Central	55-50 L	Away
Attica	64-35 W	Away
Merrillville	69-62 W	Away
Washington Twp.	67-33 W	Home
Valparaiso	59-49 W	Away
Chesterton	58-48 L	Away
Michigan City	67-44 L	Home
LaPorte	52-34 L	Home
Munster	74-34 W	Home
Lake Central	48-39 L	Home
Merrillville (Sect.)	57-46 L	Away





Boys Swimming and Diving Douglas Adduci, Robert Ayers, Alec Back, Roberto Costa, Chris Davenport, Matthew Dogan, Evan Dominguez, Nick Dove, Andrew Golden, Robert Hanna, Frank Herrera, DeAndre Jackson, Brandon Kalch, Brandon Kestle, Caleb Kitchen, Steve Kovachevich, Kendrick Lo, Ken Longfellow, Israel Pantoja, Austin Parker, Lorenzo Parker, Sean Parpart, Raymond Rivera, Jordan Rudzinski, Chris Schreier, Brandon Wilson Swimming coached by John Zack and Ashley McCune; Diving coached by Joe Hulse

Diving team sends sophomore down to state competition

This year's varsity swim and dive team had a 5-4 season overall. They made it all the way to sectionals and placed sixth.

Although the whole team did not make it to state, sophomore diver Alec Back and sophomore swimmer Chris Schreier did. Back placed second at the Penn regional, but hit the board with his foot at state, which caused him to finish 31st at the meet.

Schreier placed third in the 100 fly at sectionals, which led him to state, where he then placed 18th.

Chris Davenport has also done an excellent job this year.

"One day, while looking for a ride home, the coach asked me if I wanted to join, and I thought to myself *sounds fun*," Davenport said.

Indiana University Bloomington recruited Davenport, and they are one of the best colleges in the nation in diving.

"Individually, our team had a great season and the sophomores on the team are setting the bar for future teams," head coach John Zack said.

Story by Brittany Johnson



Sophomore Chris Schreier practices in the east pool before a meet this year.
Photo by AJ O'Reilly



Sophomore Alec Back practices his form and tries for perfection before an upcoming home meet. *Photo by: Brandon Kalch*

Boys Swim/Dive

Merrillville	115 - 71	A
LaPorte	124 - 62	H
Highland	133 - 53	H
Michigan City	87 - 99	H
Wheeler	120 - 58	A
Crown Point	82 - 104	A
Valparaiso	100.5 - 85.5	A
Chesterton	64 - 122	H
Lake Central	77 - 108	H

Junior Darcy Richardson tucks her legs underneath her body during the January 5 meet. Photo by Natalie Johnson



Girls Swim/Dive

State Qualifier Results

Sectionals

Christina Gonzales

50 Free (ranked 9th)

100 Free (ranked 3rd)

Christina Gonzales

Jessica Anderson

Claire Lichnerowicz

Megan Szabo

200 Medley Relay (ranked 12th)

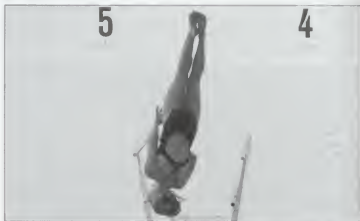
State Meet

Christina Gonzales

50 Free (ranked 6th)

100 Free (ranked 7th)

FOR THE RECORD



Junior Darcy Richardson shocks the judges with a perfect dive. Many winter sport athletes, including swimmers and divers, must train over winter break. Photo by Natalie Johnson



Junior Darcy Richardson focuses intently before leaving the diving board. Photo by Natalie Johnson

Inexperienced swimmers and divers step up and succeed

The fundamentals of swimming aren't necessarily confined to mastering strokes, kicks, and turns. Swimming requires much more than developing physical skills — swimming on a team with girls for over four hours every day in the winter months, requires the addition of one more skill — friendship.

This year, the team was fairly young and in the beginning, inexperienced. But, it was these young girls who played a major part in the team's overall success at the end of the season.

"A lot of our girls with little or no experience were forced to swim against a very high level of competition. It took a few meets for these girls to realize the role they played on the team," Coach Mundt said.

With a goal of having fun and continuing to get better as a team, the girls rigorously practiced every day in the morning from 5:15 am — 7:00 am and again in the afternoon from

3:00 — 5:00 pm. Because of their intense practice schedule that requires them to arrive at school early and leave late, seeing the sun outside is a rare occurrence.

"I feel like I'm a mole for two months," junior Megan Szabo said regarding the winter swimming season.

On a good day, the girls would be expected to swim 11,000 yards. For all non-swimmers out there, 1,650 yards is equivalent to one mile on dry land.

The girls finished with a 4-5-1 dual meet record, yet finished 3rd in sectionals and 19th in the state. Sophomore Christina Gonzalez placed 6th in the 50-freestyle and 7th in the 100-freestyle this year at state. The 200-Medley relay team, comprised of juniors Claire Lichnerowicz, Jessica Anderson, Megan Szabo, and sophomore Christina Gonzalez, also did well at sectionals and made the journey down to state.

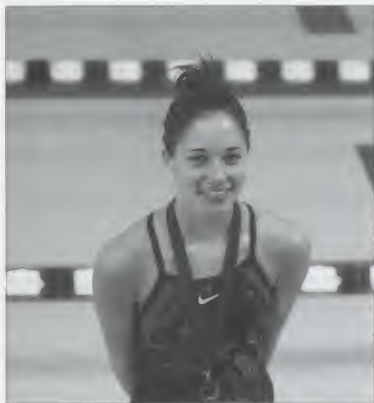
"We went into sectionals being ranked 3rd. It was crazy; the adrenaline rush you get from swimming is unbelievable. During our relay, the crowd went silent. Every girl swam her best time and we dropped two seconds off our record. We were going to state!" junior Claire Lichnerowicz exclaimed.

The outlook for next season is encouraging.

"Everyone that scored at our conference and sectional meets is returning, as well as all our state qualifiers," coach Mundt said. With all the experience gained from this season, the girls are ready for another great season this coming winter.

"Swimming in a competitive meet with everyone counting on you, is one of the most relaxing yet nerve shattering feelings I have ever experienced," junior Claire Lichnerowicz said.

With hard work, dedication, and persistence, the girls can look forward to a great season next year. *Story by Andrea Falk*



Junior Darcy Richardson cannot help but smile as she receives a medal for her superior dives at a meet this year. *Photo by Natalie Johnson*



Junior Darcy Richardson tucks her legs underneath her body before doing a flip off of the diving board during the January 5 meet. *Photo by Natalie Johnson*

Girls Swimming and Diving Jessica Anderson, Emily Barnes, Lindsey Bartholomew, Samantha Becker, Brittany Black, Liane Cesare, Victoria Chavez, Leslie Cook, Seiche Dogan, Jessica Dranchak, Madi Engle, Cristina Gonzalez, Michelle Gottschlich, Taylor Hill, Claire Lichnerowicz, Mayra Martinez, Erika McEwan, Darcy Richardson, Ashley Sanders, Elizabeth Saylor, Alex Simmons, Anna Simmons, Jessica Sobocinski, Allie Stacy, Megan Szabo, Krystal Vivian, Jessica West, Cassie Williams, Hannah Wisse. *Swimming coached by Melanie Karmel, Greg Mundt; Diving coached by Joe Hulse*

Senior DJ Anderson tries to tap the ball away from a member of "Lembcke's 4D's" at the tournament. *Photo by Natalie Johnson*



Michelle Goebel holds one of Brett and Jessica Munden's newborn twins as she watches the tournament. The shirts the teachers are sporting were sold as another avenue to raise money for Goebel. *Photo by Natalie Johnson*



Social Studies teacher Michelle Goebel sports a pink bandana with rhinestones as she talks to event organizer Mary Lembcke. *Photo by Natalie Johnson*



A teammate goes to shoot a basket during the 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament. Some of the PHS staff members sponsored teams of students under the condition they would wear t-shirts with their names on them. *Photo by Natalie Johnson*



Students and staff unite to organize tournament to fight cancer

When social studies teacher Michelle Goebel informed her students that she had been diagnosed with breast and liver cancer, seniors Amy Muhammad and Desiree Ramos didn't take the news lightly.

Even though Goebel was determined to stay strong and positive, Muhammad and Ramos wanted to do more for the National Honor Society adviser and teacher.

With some help from FACS teacher Mary Lembcke, the girls organized a 3 on 3 basketball tournament, called Shoot Out Cancer, to help Goebel

deal with some of the extra expenses that came with her treatment.

Between the money raised from the tournament, the bake sale and donations from members and businesses in the community, Portage High School was able to present Goebel with a check for over \$2,000.

Students and staff also showed their support for Goebel by purchasing pink t-shirts that advertised the tournament the Friday before, which was declared "Paint Portage Pink Day." *Story by Melissa Deavers*



Administrator Phil Miesko and FACS teacher Mary Lembcke watch as two teams play against each other during the tournament. PHS was able to give over \$2,000 to Goebel. *Photo by Natalie Johnson*

Students play against each other in the West Gymnasium. Most of the teams in the tournament were from Portage High School, but a few teams from Merrillville High School signed up to play as well. *Photo by Natalie Johnson*



Luis Acuna, Hilario Alicea, Joseph Arroyo, Michael Berridge, Emmanuel Chacon, Nathaniel Coleman, Tyler Coleman, Brandon Coppinger, Jesse Duque, Corey Garzella, Kenneth Goode, Irving Hernandez, Daniel Holtzman, Andrew Keil, Kyle Keith, Aaron King, James Mancilla, Niko Martinez, Sean McMurray, Chris Mendoza, James Mokol, James Nolan, Anthony Nuzzo, Marcus O'Reilly, Jacob Parrish, Michael Patillo, William Pearman, Justin Rhein, Sean Roberts, Kelly Robbins, Johathon Rodriguez, Jose Romo, Christopher Santos, Christopher Saylor, Paul Shane, David Tamietto, Damien Torres, Michael Torres, Thomas Tores Jr., Max VanWormer, Kory Vettore, Brandon Whelp, Tyler Williams, Justin Willis, Daniel Wilson, Joshua Wright, Josh Wurster, Sherman Yancey, Ian Young. Coached by Pat Wilkins, Ryan Kardash, Fred Joseph, Adam Morena



A Portage wrestler fights to avoid being pinned by a VHS wrestler. Photo provided by Alderson Photography

McMurray takes State

You can call it overcoming the odds if you want. Or you can call it an upset. But don't ask Sean McMurray what he thinks of his state championship victory over Hobart's Eric Galka in the 135-lb. weight class.

There was a little bit of controversy in McMurray's match, if you're from Hobart. But if you ask Sean McMurray, he thinks a whole lot differently.

"I mean if you asked a Hobart fan, they will say that Galka got robbed, but if you ask me, I was being smart and waiting it out."

Amidst the controversy of the match was McMurray, not caring a thing about what people thought happened.

"You know, it is just like any other big time match, there are always things that should have, could have, and would have happened, but when it comes down to it I have the medal and

I am getting the ring and no one can take that away from me," McMurray said.

McMurray is full of confidence and has the right to be as he works his tail off day in and day out, and he has definitely earned his state champion honor.

"It feels great to be state champ," said McMurray. "I've worked hard since I was 7 years old just for this, this is the one thing every high school wrestler works for, and I was fortunate enough to do it in my sophomore year."

First-year Coach Pat Wilkins expected nothing less of McMurray to get back to state.

"The expectations were to get Sean back to State. Once we saw his draw we knew he could be in the championship match," said Wilkins. "We knew he could wrestle Galka tough and that's exactly what he did."

In his first year as head coach, Wilkins couldn't feel any better to see McMurray win a state championship, but he wants more.

"It feels good to see someone work hard and achieve success," said Wilkins. "We hope it's only the beginning of bigger things to come, like a Team State championship."

Hard work and heart would have to be the phrases that would describe McMurray's season.

"I knew I could win it when the season started, when it comes down to it, it turns into who wants it more and who works for it," said McMurray. "When you go down state, every match is decided by a takedown or an escape, its just heart, and I think I'm living proof of that."

Wilkins would have to agree and sees McMurray's work ethic rubbing off on others. *Story by CJ Peters*



AVHS wrestler stands up after being pushed out of bounds by a Portage wrestler.
Photo provided by Alderson Photography



Senior Justin Willis wrestles with an opponent from Valparaiso High School Photo provided by Alderson Photography

Junior Brittanía Dahlgre congratulates a teammate after performing well at a meet this year. Photo provided by Alderson Photography



Varsity Sabrina Alaniz, Jacquelyn Arnold, Paige Bomba, Kaytynd Burns, Brittanía Dahlgre, Sarah Rosser, Cortney Stutler, Ashley Tindle, Taylor Yardaman, Kylee Yeomans Coached by Karen Barcelli and Melissa Alaniz



A Portage gymnast performs a routine in front of a panel of judges during a meet this year at Portage High School. Photo provided by Alderson Photography

Gymnastics team conquers, despite young ages

They may be young, but this year's gymnastics team was not to be counted out, as they had an amazing season.

This year's varsity gymnasts team finished their season with an overall record of 2-4. According to the majority of the girls on the team, their biggest accomplishment as a team was when they placed third at their first big competition.

Each girl on the team had a different reason for joining this year, but the graceful flips and amazing tricks were what made senior Lisa Carroll want to join the gymnastics team when she entered high school.

"I believe we did pretty well this year considering we had such a new, young team," Carroll said.

Another big accomplishment for the team

was when varsity placed seventh this year in sectionals.

"Although we didn't quite make it to state, all the girls did an amazing job," assistant coach Melissa Alaniz said.

With a little more experience under their belts, the team hopes to come back next year a little stronger, a little wiser and a little older. *Story by Brittany Johnson*

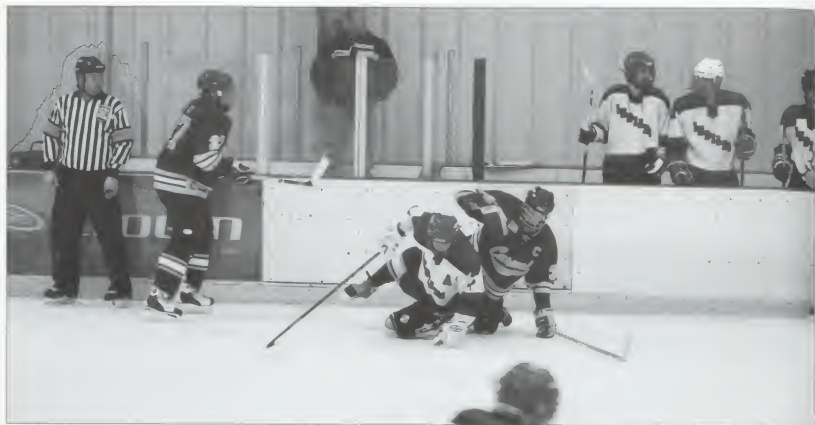


Sophomore Courtney Stutler performs on the balance beam during a meet this year. Gymnasts not only need to have a sense of balance, but a sense of grace as well. *Photo provided by Alderson Photography*

Gymnastics

Michigan City	-----	Win
LaPorte	-----	Lose
Crown Point	-----	Lose
Hobart	100.4 - 98.5	Win
Merrillville	104 - 95.975	Lose
Valparaiso	111.025 - 94.3	Lose
Lake Central	96.4 - 94.425	Win
Chesterton	108.875 - 94.7	Lose

A Portage player and a player from the opposing team get back up after a collision while attempting to get the puck as the players on the bench look on. Photo provided by: Zach Dean



Hockey

Cobras	0 - 6	Lost
HF	0 - 5	Lost
Wolves	2 - 4	Lost
Munster	3 - 4	Lost
Crown Point	2 - 3	Lost
Lincolnway central	5 - 3	Won
HF	2 - 3	Lost
Carmel Blue	5 - 4	Won
Penn Black	5 - 0	Won
Carmel White	8 - 2	Won
Carmel Blue	4 - 1	Won
Andrew	5 - 5	Tied
Lakeshore St. Joe	6 - 5	Won
Southstars "B"	7 - 1	Won
Southstars "B"	8 - 3	Won
Lincolnway central	2 - 4	Lost
Wolves	1 - 3	Lost
Lake central	2 - 2	Tied
Noblesville	0 - 6	Lost
Champaigne	3 - 7	Lost
St. Joe	4 - 5	Lost
HSE B	2 - 5	Lost
HSE C	0 - 3	Lost
Cobras	4 - 4	Tied
Champaigne	2 - 1	Won
Andrew	0 - 3	Lost
Lakeshore St. Joe	3 - 2	Won
Crown Point	0 - 6	Lost
Munster	5 - 5	Tied
Crown Point	1 - 10	Lost
Munster	3 - 3	Tied
Lake Central	1 - 1	Tied
Lake Central	2 - 5	Lost
Southstars Red	5 - 4	Won
Clay	3 - 1	Won
Carmel White	6 - 1	Won
New Haven	3 - 4	Lost



Junior Tyler Dean waits for a pass while other players help to get the puck to the goal. Photo provided by: Zach Dean



Two Portage players team up to hit a player of the opposing team to prevent him from getting the puck. Photo provided by: Zach Dean

Hockey team attends state in Fort Wayne

The Portage Ice Hockey club shows a lot of passion for their sport just by showing up. The team has to travel all the way to Saint John to practice and attend home games. As for their away games, those are even further.

The team attended state this year in South

Bend. They ended up winning all of their games and going to the state championship in Fort Wayne. Unfortunately, they came up short, finishing with second place, but that doesn't mean the team and their coach is not proud of what they've accomplished this season.

The team's dedication has been an important factor for their victories this year. They attended several practices a week, some running very late, and often held practice and attended conditioning in the off-season. The team is excited to see what will be accomplished next year.



Senior Alex Proper pushes against a player from the opposing team, trying to keep him from taking the puck from another player. Photo provided by: Zach Dean



The team celebrates in a huddle after scoring a goal. Both the defense and offense have to work together to move the puck to the goal.

Photo provided by: Zach Dean



Junior Zach Dean takes a shot at the goal in an attempt to get another point before the end of the second period. Photo provided by: Zach Dean



Boys track

LaPorte	Win	Away
Crown Point	Win	Away
Valparaiso	Lose	Home
Chesterton	Win	Home
Merrillville	Lose	Away
Michigan City	Win	Away
Huntington	6th Place	Away
Lake Central	Win	Home
Sectional	2nd Place	Home

Girls track

Boone Grove	64 - 60	Win
Crown Point	32 - 99	Lose
LaPorte	62 - 62	Tie
Valparaiso	99 - 33	Lose
Chesterton	100 - 32	Lose
Merrillville	69 - 62	Lose
Michigan City	72 - 59	Win
Lake Central	100 - 23	Lose

Senior Doug Coffman takes off at the starting line for his event at a track meet this year at Portage High School. Photo by Mike Sikora



PHS holds first ever indoor track season

BOYS
FAISEL AL-AM-
MARI
JEREMY ANDER-
SON
CARLOS ARA-
GON
ENI BALERINI
AMBI BARNES
BRACY BEAN
JEREMY BLAKE
ADDISEN CAM-
ERON
JOEY CEPOLSKI
VINCE CHAN-
DLER
DARREN CON-
LEY
BRANDON
COPPINGER
SEAN CURBOW
KYLE EASTMAN
CAMERON
EATON
JOE EFANTIS
JAKOB ENGEL
ROSS FALK
VINCE FISCHER
MASON FLORES
SPENCER FULTZ
JEFF HENSLEY
DARRIUS HOL-
LAND
MIKE HORD
ALEX
HUTCHINS
BEN HUTCHINS
DEANDRE
JACKSON
ARVIS JOHN-
SON
NATHAN JOHN-
STON
MATT JOINER
BRANDON
KESTLE
BRIAN KIM
KYLE KREMKE
TYLER LEWERS
KEN LONGFEL-
LOW

HUGO LUNA
TYLER MONO-
HAN
RYAN MORRIS
JOSE NUNEZ
MARCUS
O'REILLY
MATT ORTIZ
JOE PACZOLT
JACOB PARISH
VINCE PHILLIPS
PIERRE PIRTE
JAKOB RIBAR
TYLER RICHTER
RAY RIVERA
BRUNO RO-
DRIGUES
JOSH SANTOS
CALEB SER-
RANO
SHADY SOLI-
MAN
DAVID SPUR-
RIER
TIM STANTON
ETHAN STEEL
MYLES TOLLIVER
LEE TONEY
TIVON WAD-
DELL
MATT WALTERS
LARRY WHIT-
ING
CLINT WIGHT
JAMES WILKINS
JAKEWIRK
ALEX YONG

GIRLS
JASMINE AGUI-
LAR
SAM BECKER
RAMI BISHOP
TORI BLISS
MIRYAM CA-
BRALES
KAYLA
CRISWELL
CHRISTINA
DELTURCO
KRISTY EVANS

KYLIE EVANS
JABRIA EZELL
ANDREA FALK
ASHLEY FARLEY
RACHEL FORE-
MAN
JAQUEL FREENY
RAVEN GUE
TAYLOR HALKO
JESSICA HARRIS
MCKENZIE
HARSHA
PAIGE HOG-
GARD
ERIN JACKMAN
RACHEL JOR-
DAN
CRYSTAL KEIL-
MAN
KELLY MACKO-
VAYK
VALERIE MIHAL
MELINDA MISCH
JASMYNE
MITCHELL
ASHLEY MORRIS
AUTUMN MUR-
RAY
JACKIE PAGAN
TIFFANY PALA-
GYI
MEGAN RAW-
DON
VICKI RIVERA
LISA SAMP-
LAWSKI
ASHLEY SMITH
BIANCA SMITH
CHRISTINE
SOLIS
BRITTANIE
WARREN
HEATHER WIL-
LIAMSON
JAWANZA
WOODS
JENNIFER YORK

Run Portage, Run. This year girls overall record was 2-5-1.

"Run hard, train fast, and having faith are the guidelines I love to live by," sophomore Jabria Ezell said.

Lisa Samplawski finished fourth in the 1600 with a time of 5:18.88, making her the third fastest Portage female ever. Heather Williamson moved to number six on our all time list with a pole vault of seven feet.

Tori Bliss went to Bloomington for State Finals after finishing second at the Chesterton Track and

Field Regional, throwing the shot 42 feet, 5.75 inches. The 4x100 relay team finished third, and shattered their own school record with a time of 50.40. Members of this group are Jessica Harris, Kristy Evans, Kylie Evans, and Ashley Farley. At the 2008 DAC conference meet, the girls finished in fourth place at the Chesterton sectionals and they finished tenth out of 26 teams at the regional meet.

"I run; it's what I do. It's what I've done all my life," Enie Ballerini said. *Story by Brittany Johnson*



Senior Joe Efantis takes off after receiving a pass from his teammate. *Photo by Mike Sikora*



Freshman Tori Bliss builds up strength before throwing the discus during a practice this year. *Photo by Mike Sikora*



Varsity DJ Anderson, Dave Berridge, Mike Brunner, Steve Bryan, Brandon Comerford, Grant Cummings, Billy Doll, Sam Fazekas, Matt Kawiecki, Steve Koveck, Nikola Ivanovic, Luke Manoski, Tommy Mosley, CJ Peters, Shane Prance, Zack Pzybysh, Dom Reboj, Kyle Schiller, Mike Sheehan Coached by Tim Prowski and Bob Dixon



Junior Varsity Allen Barrett, Michael Brunner, Tony Checky, Eric Espinosa, Corey Garzella, Zack Huston, Cody Jackson, Ben Jones, Ivan Martinez, Tom Mosley, Sam Puchalski, Nathan Ramian, Justin Rhein, Jeremy Sinkus, Giovanni Taylor, Tom Webber Coached by Doug Nelson and John Hall



Freshmen Brian Barnas, Tyler Bohling, Christian Cherry, Jacob Dixon, Kyle Dranchak, Chandler Griffin, Jordan Grindley, Bryce Komenda, Tyler Lello, Cody Logsdon, Gabe Myers, Tristan Pearman, Trey Rivas, Mike Schiller, Paul Shane, Brandon Stemple, Kyle Tampier, Jacob Tapper, Todd Varaneckas Coached by Bob Devine and Brian Blanton



A varsity baseball player takes a swing at a ball during practice this year. Photo by Mike Sikora

Baseball

Elkhart Mem.	7-1 W	Away
Griffith	9-4 L	Away
Highland	4-3 W	Home
Munster	9-6 L	Away
Boone Grove	5-2 W	Away
Chesterton	12-11 W	Home
Valparaiso	8-0 L	Away
Lake Central	12-2 L	Away
Michigan City	18-8 L	Home
LaPorte	13-4 L	Home
South Central	10-1 W	Home
Merrillville	3-2 W	Away
Hammond Clark	2-0 W	Away
Crown Point	5-3 L	Home
Lake Central	7-4 L	Home
Chesterton	9-0 L	Away
Valparaiso	10-9 W	Home
Michigan City	Loss	Away
LaPorte	6-0 W	Away
Penn	6-0 L	Home
ECC	8-7 W	Away
Merrillville	7-3 L	Home
Crown Point	7-4 L	Away
Gavit	3-2 W	Away
Morton	2-1 W	Home
Hobart	10-1 L	Away
Bishop Noll	5-4 L	Away
Hanover Central	2-1 L	Away
Sectional - Valpo	9-5 L	Away

Baseball team keeps positive attitude through tough season

This year, the boys' varsity baseball team was ready to make a statement. The team consisted of five returning position players, including three starting pitchers.

"We have a great core of players returning from last year's team. They know what it takes to win and compete on the varsity level," coach Tim Pirowski said.

The Indians had a lot to prove coming into this season. Every other team in the DAC doubted their talent and the team in general.

Last year, the Indians went into a game not knowing if they were going to win or lose. This year was a different story; they went into every game thinking they would win.

"Our goal was to become a more consistent team rather than an occasional one. If we do that then we should be very successful this year in conference play and in the sectional," Pirowski said.

Also, the Indians did not have an easy schedule by any means. The DAC is one of, if not the most, talented conference in the state of Indiana. They play several state-recognized teams, including teams that are consistently in *The Times'* Top Ten.

The Indians had several shining stars, with stellar performances from seniors Luke Manoski and Shane Prance, and juniors Kyle Schiller and Zack Przybysz.

The Indians tried to end the drought of not having won a sectional title for over ten years, but were unfortunately unsuccessful.

"So far the amount of enthusiasm and support for each other has been great. The guys are excited to get out there and compete for a Duneland championship," Pirowski said during the season.

A highlight of the season was when the Indians faced off against Hammond Clark in the High School Baseball Challenge at the Steelyard in Gary, Indiana, home of the Gary Southshore Railcats. We came out on top with a score of 2-0. *Story by Chad Crie*



Junior Kyle Schiller struggles to reach for the ball during an afternoon practice. *Photo by Mike Sikora*

The men of the PHS baseball team spent many hours after school practicing their hitting skills. *Photo by Mike Sikora*

Part of being a successful team is always keeping a positive attitude. Here, two members of the softball team encourage a teammate during a game this year. Photo by Natalie Johnson



Varsity Erica Armstrong, Kristen Ashby, Tori Bliss, Jessica Bruno, Dani Bryan, Brittany Cain, Courtney Glos, Kristen Helmick, Ashley Janiga, Tiffany Kiel, Natalie Korpak, Olivia Leggett, Hannah Pajor, Tonya Purcell, Alex Rodriguez, Sam Rodriguez, Jessy Sedoris, Hannah Smock
Coached by Jeff Smith, Dave Mattix and Gil Arzola



Junior Varsity Sabrina Alaniz, Tori Bliss, Kadie Burns, Courtney Byrd, Kate Dwyer, Dani Lynch, Bri Majewski, Kali Norfrey, Megan Reese, Rhi Smolar, Kylie Someson, Rebeka Spicker, Kayla Stone, Stacia Upton, Taylor Vardaman, Heather Watson, Courtney Wilson, Mercedes Zambrana
Coached by Tim Haupt, Missy Fekete, Deb Seeley and Cara Horner



Junior Erica Armstrong readies herself as the ball was pitched to the opposing team. Armstrong plays third base. Photo by Natalie Johnson



Before a big game, Armstrong tries her hand at pitching. Photo by Natalie Johnson

Underclassmen step up to the plate

With Mr. Jeff Smith being promoted to Athletic Director at the start of next school year, this year was his last season as girls head varsity softball coach. This is a concern for next year's team after this year's stellar season.

The Lady Indians lost many key players last year due to graduation. A big key loss was Megan Gutierrez. But Smith thinks the returning letter-winners and underclassmen filled in the spots just fine.

"Well, we knew Liv (Olivia Leggett) could pitch, she pitched a lot for us her freshman year and especially her sophomore year, because Gutierrez broke her nose, so we needed her to step up big time," Smith said.

The team was also pleased with the play of the underclassmen this season.

"We have asked a lot of Natalie Korpak (freshman) so far this season, and she has been a very nice addition to the team, along with Kristen Helmick, Helmick has been clutch for us this season, she plays many different positions and hits the ball very hard," Smith said during a mid-season interview.

The Lady Indians look to be a very competitive team in the DAC in the upcoming years. Out of the 18 players on the varsity rosters, only a mere five of the girls were seniors.

The Lady Indians are known to always be one of the best teams in every upcoming season in the DAC. From 1995 to 2000, they were DAC champs, last year they were sectional champs, and they have only had double digit lose seasons twice from 95' to the present. Story by Chad Crite

Softball

Crown Point	4-2L	Away
Martinsville	6-5L	Away
Secena	4-2L	Away
Hobart	11-2W	Home
Lake Central	6-5W	Home
Harrison	7-6W	Away
Valparaiso	8-3W	Home
Merrillville	10-0W	Home
Michigan City	4-0W	Away
Chesterton	5-1L	Away
LaPorte	3-2W	Away
Lincolnway East	3-0W	Home
Merrillville	8-0W	Away
Crown Point	3-0W	Home
Portage Northern	8-0W	Away
Lakeshore	4-3L	Away
SB St. Joe	7-1W	Away
Penn	7-3L	Home
Chesterton	3-1L	Home
Valparaiso	6-3W	Away
Michigan City	9-0W	Home
LaPorte	2-0W	Home
Griffith	3-2L	Away
Lake Central	12-4L	Away
Boone Grove	11-1W	Home
Highland	9-0W	Home
Munster	3-2L	Away
Sect. (Hobart)	7-1W	Away
Sect. (LaPorte)	2-1L	Away



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Kyle Adkins
Mike Barnes
Tyler Coleman
Jared Davies
Craig Kaminski
Jack Lewis
Peter Lofland
Nate Smock
Zac Stoehr
Tim Talley
Corey Tulacz
Alex Quick
Nick Quick
Nick Untch



Two members of the golf team talk about their last shots in an outing this year. Photo by Sarah Dienes



Senior Nick Quick watches his golf ball fly through the air after taking a shot off of the tee. Photo by Sarah Dienes



Senior Alex Quick looks to the green as he attempts to line up his shot. Photo by Sarah Dienes

Golf team celebrates successful season

The boy's varsity and junior varsity golf team has done an above par job.

Shooting a hole in one at number five at Robin Hurst is senior Corey Tulacz's, golfer of four years, proudest moment in golfing.

"Winning and McDonald's are my favorite

part of golf," Tulacz said.

Varsity and JV had an overall record of 8-11.

"I enjoyed coaching the boys golf team and hope that they keep with them what I have taught them," coach Richard Kretz said. Story by Brittany Johnson

Boys Golf

Twin Lakes	376 (10th place)	Away
Hanover Central	181-161 W	Home
Boone Grove	187-164 L	Away
Munster	153-156 W	Home
Michigan City	153-157 W	Home
Kankakee Valley	374 (6th place)	Away
Merrillville	160-176 W	Home
Chesterton	156-160 L	Home
LaPorte	160-182 L	Away
Crown Point	172-182 L	Away
Valparaiso	154-168 L	Away
Lake Central	159-168 L	Away
Highland	182-184 W	Away
Merrillville	174-181 W	Away
Griffith	W	Home
Crown Point	153-155 L	Home
Michigan City	155-159 W	Home
Lake Central Invite	5th place	Away
Lake Central	Loss	Away
Valparaiso	Loss	Away
Chesterton	156-180 L	Away
LaPorte	167-180 L	Away
DAC Invite	7th place	Away
Sectional	4th place	Away

Junior Darya Sadchikova keeps her eye on the ball as she waits for her opponent to return it to her side of the court. Photo provided by Alderson Photography



Junior Janae Smith follows through with her shot after returning the ball to her opponent at a match this year. Photo provided by Alderson Photography



Senior Tasha Sever swings her racket to return the ball to her opponent. Photo provided by Alderson Photography



Varsity Meghan Doyle, Bre Harvey, Amanda Klenk, Kristen Knuth, Britni Novina, Darya Sadchikova, Tasha Sever, Janae Smith, Melody Tilford Coached by Jessica Niebel and Carrie Biggs

Junior Varsity Abby Clark, Michelle Figueroa, Bre Harvey, Michelle Iliff, Amanda Klenk, Colleen Kuczwar, Sabrina Lattanzi, Kyle McGuire, Alanna Mossell, Britni Novina, Kristie Stanfield, Jessica Wright Coached by Jessica Niebel and Carrie Biggs



Junior Janae Smith runs back inside her court after saving the ball from touching out-of-bounds. Photo provided by Alderson Photography

Ladies tennis faces tough schedule of matches

Girls Tennis

Gavit	rain out	Home
Andrean	3-2 L	Home
Boone Grove	5-0 W	Home
LaPorte	rain out	Away
Valparaiso	4-1 L	Away
Highland	4-1 L	Home
Chesterton	4-1 L	Away
ECC	5-0 W	Home
Lake Central	3-2 W	Home
Rensselaer	5-0 W	Away
Merrillville	3-2 W	Home
Michigan City	5-0 L	Home
Crown Point	3-2 L	Home



Senior Tasha Sever reaches out to attempt to return the ball to her opponent. Photo provided by Alderson Photography

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Students in Mr. Cavan's ninth mod English class work on an assignment on the new computers that were installed in his classroom this year. The new rooms with these computers are located in the space where the media center used to be. Photo by Amy Muhammad

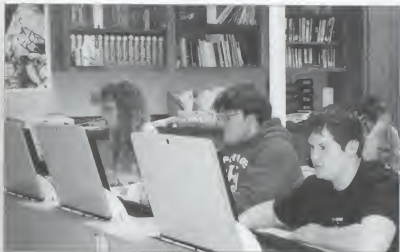
Students in Mrs. Brown's ninth mod chemistry class are hard at work on an assigned lab. Part of the students' grade was taking good safety precautions, as the girls in this photo demonstrate. Photo by Melissa Deavers



This year was full of school spirit,
school activities and a lot of
learning. So, remember what you
were taught and benefit from your
experiences here. Always keep your
spirits high and your Indian pride
strong.



The PHS cheerleaders perform their gravity-defying stunts at a football game this year. Both varsity and junior varsity teams could be seen performing at the football games. Photo by Katie O'Brien



Our football team tackles the opposing team, stopping them from scoring at one of the home games this year. Photo by Katie O'Brien

Seniors Brittany Demmond and Albert Evans accept the honor of being named Homecoming Queen and Mr. Football of the 2007-2008 school year. Evans took a break from the game to escort her down the steps. *Photo provided by Brittany Demmond*

Members of the PHS Marching Indians get into the spirit by cheering on fellow students and football players. *Photo by Katie O'Brien*



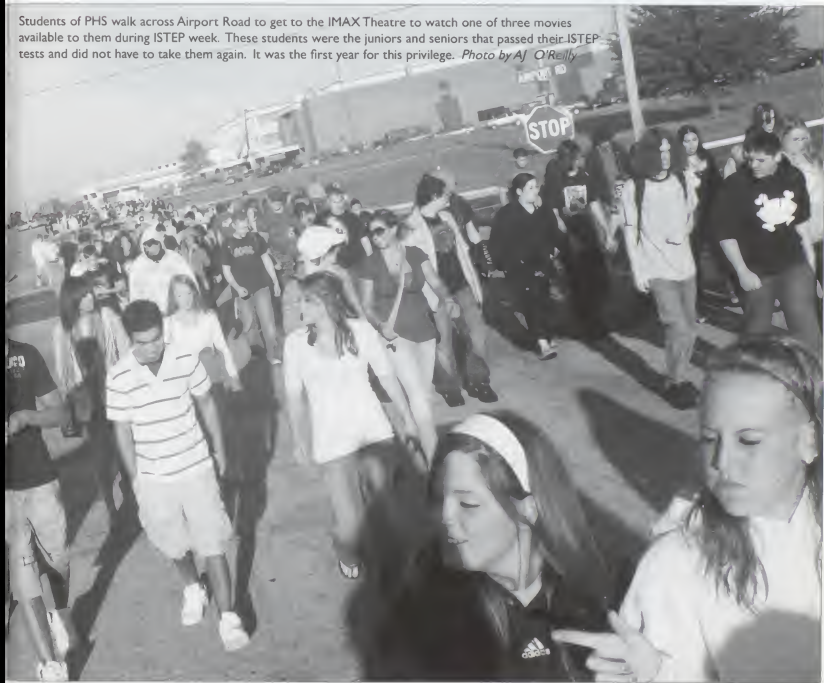
After a year of hard work and perseverance from the students, the dedication has finally paid off. The seniors are going on to bigger and better things, and the rest of us only have a little ways to go before we can do the same. No matter where it is you are going, even it is back to PHS, remember the lessons you have learned and the experiences you have encountered.



Sophomore Sarah Herald works on an assignment in one of her classes. This year, PHS decided to go back to a traditional schedule instead of Block, giving students seven 50-minute classes a day instead of four 90 minute classes. *Photo by Mike Sikora*



Students of PHS walk across Airport Road to get to the IMAX Theatre to watch one of three movies available to them during ISTEP week. These students were the juniors and seniors that passed their ISTEP tests and did not have to take them again. It was the first year for this privilege. *Photo by AJ O'Reilly*





As Portage High School
Transitions, the
students do, too. We become more
mature and we learn more about
ourselves. Because of this, we go into
the world with a good attitude and
great lessons learned.

the 1990s, the number of people in the UK who are employed in the public sector has increased by 1.5 million, from 2.5 million in 1980 to 4 million in 1995. The public sector has become a major employer in the UK, and its growth has been a major factor in the overall growth of the economy.

The public sector has also become a major employer of women. In 1980, women made up 40% of the public sector workforce, and by 1995, this figure had risen to 50%. This increase has been driven by a number of factors, including the growth of the public sector, the increasing participation of women in the workforce, and the increasing demand for public services. The public sector has also become a major employer of young people, with the number of young people employed in the public sector increasing from 1.5 million in 1980 to 2.5 million in 1995.

The public sector has also become a major employer of people with disabilities. In 1980, people with disabilities made up 10% of the public sector workforce, and by 1995, this figure had risen to 20%. This increase has been driven by a number of factors, including the growth of the public sector, the increasing participation of people with disabilities in the workforce, and the increasing demand for public services.

The public sector has also become a major employer of people from ethnic minorities. In 1980, people from ethnic minorities made up 10% of the public sector workforce, and by 1995, this figure had risen to 20%. This increase has been driven by a number of factors, including the growth of the public sector, the increasing participation of people from ethnic minorities in the workforce, and the increasing demand for public services.

The public sector has also become a major employer of people with mental health problems. In 1980, people with mental health problems made up 10% of the public sector workforce, and by 1995, this figure had risen to 20%. This increase has been driven by a number of factors, including the growth of the public sector, the increasing participation of people with mental health problems in the workforce, and the increasing demand for public services.

The public sector has also become a major employer of people with physical health problems. In 1980, people with physical health problems made up 10% of the public sector workforce, and by 1995, this figure had risen to 20%. This increase has been driven by a number of factors, including the growth of the public sector, the increasing participation of people with physical health problems in the workforce, and the increasing demand for public services.

The public sector has also become a major employer of people with learning difficulties. In 1980, people with learning difficulties made up 10% of the public sector workforce, and by 1995, this figure had risen to 20%. This increase has been driven by a number of factors, including the growth of the public sector, the increasing participation of people with learning difficulties in the workforce, and the increasing demand for public services.

The public sector has also become a major employer of people with chronic health problems. In 1980, people with chronic health problems made up 10% of the public sector workforce, and by 1995, this figure had risen to 20%. This increase has been driven by a number of factors, including the growth of the public sector, the increasing participation of people with chronic health problems in the workforce, and the increasing demand for public services.

the 1990s, the number of people in the UK who are aged 65 and over has increased from 10.5 million to 12.5 million, and the number of people aged 75 and over from 4.5 million to 6.5 million (Office of National Statistics 1999).

There is a growing awareness of the need to address the needs of older people in the community. The Department of Health (1999) has published a strategy for older people, which sets out the government's commitment to older people and the actions that will be taken to improve their lives. The strategy is based on the following principles:

- Older people should be able to live independently and actively in the community.
- Older people should be able to access the services and facilities they need.
- Older people should be able to participate in the decisions that affect their lives.
- Older people should be able to live in a safe and secure environment.

The strategy also sets out a number of specific actions that will be taken to improve the lives of older people, including:

- Improving the quality of care in residential care homes.
- Improving the quality of care in nursing homes.
- Improving the quality of care in day care centres.
- Improving the quality of care in home care services.
- Improving the quality of care in community care services.

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